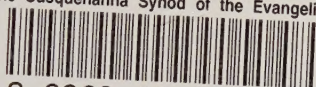


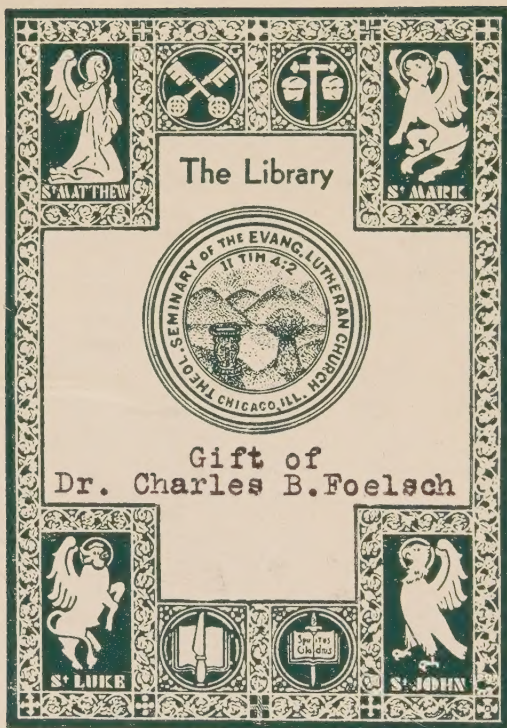
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REV. E. A. SHARRETTS, D.D.

THE
Susquehanna Synod

OF THE
Evangelical Lutheran Church

IN THE
United States

A History
1867-1917

18145

Published by the Synod on its
Fiftieth Anniversary
1917



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FOREWORD

The men who in October 1867 organized the Susquehanna Synod were men of faith and vision. They were filled with missionary zeal. They believed that territorial and other reasons justified the men of the Susquehanna Conference in asking their dismissals from the East Pennsylvania Synod, in order that they might form and do the work of a Synod. They represented a distinct type and class, though, of course were one with the fathers and brethren of their mother Synod, in all essentials of Christian faith and life.

The fact that the little Synod which began with 4500 communicants became a Synod with 21,000 communicants in fifty years, is ample proof of its providential mission and justification.

The Fiftieth Anniversary of a Lutheran Synod in America, may well be the occasion for a careful review of the past. A history, then, should be a very fitting part of the Synod's jubilee. It is hoped that the history of our Synod's fifty years may prove of enough value to justify its existence.

It is needless to say that the critical reader will find many imperfections. In some cases early records, which were meager at best, have disappeared. In other cases where doubtless, though possibly scant and rare, auxillary sources of information exist, pastors and others were not familiar with them. Further, the past year has witnessed a very unusual amount of changing in the pastorates of the Synod, and this materially increased the difficulty both in getting material and getting it promptly.

Accumulated delays prevented the work from being completed as early as was expected. It was intended that every charge should be represented by a picture of its pastor and of each church in it. In addition to these, it was intended that cuts of many of the ministers who had served one or more pastorates in the Synod should appear. These intentions were not fully carried out only because the necessary photographs or cuts were not secured, even though, in some instances, repeated efforts were made by the committee to secure them. With all of its manifest defects and

limitations, it is hoped and believed, that the work will justify its cost and labor, by its personal and historic interest and value.

The committee of the Synod on this memorial volume consisted of Rev's. Frank P. Manhart, J. W. Shannon and John Wagner.

May Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, the great Shepherd and Bishop of Souls, who has ever vouchsafed His gracious presence and help to the faithful pastors and people of the Susquehanna Synod, grant that in the half century to come, the pastors and people of our congregations may serve Him with the purest zeal, the truest faith and the most consecrated life of which His humble and devout followers are capable.

THE SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

Some special features and actions have characterized the Synod's life and growth. Some of these may be fittingly described.

NO MINISTERIUM.

Unlike most of its older and younger Synods in the General Synod, Susquehanna Synod has never had a Ministerium. In all of its business, even including trials of ministers and the decisions concerning candidates for ordination, the laymen have had an equal voice with the ministry.

NO LICENSURE.

This Synod never granted a ministerial license, either from one convention of the Synod until another, or ad interim. It has thus had only ordained ministers on its list of clergymen. Licentiates coming to it from other Synods were classed as candidates for ordination. As the Synod was unique in this particular in 1875 its was often referred to during the great debate on the ministerium question at the convention of the General Synod in Baltimore during that year. While its position was endorsed by Rev. Dr. S. Sprecher, one of the two leading debaters on that occasion, it was referred to rather contemptuously by Rev. Dr. J. A. Brown, the other leading debater, as that of "one little synod." However, when the vote was taken, the majority decided that "in all cases where District Synods have not made provision for a Ministerium, all the powers and duties prescribed in this article shall devolve upon the Synod." As this action of the General Synod in 1875 is still a part of the Formula Government, the right and the character of the "one little synod" has been amply vindicated.

MUHLENBERG MEMORIAL SERVICE.

At its regular convention in 1887, the Synod resolved to hold a special session to commemorate the life and service of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg who was born in 1711 and came to America



Rev. P. Born, D. D.

in 1742, at or near the time of the one hundredth anniversary of his death, which occurred on Oct. 7, 1787. The committee to arrange the services consisted of Revs. P. Born, D. D., F. P. Manhart and J. A. Wirt.

Accordingly a special session of the Synod was held at Selinsgrove, Pa., October 18 and 19, 1887. Papers were read as follows: "Lutheranism in America Prior to the Coming of Muhlenberg," by Rev. S. E. Ochsenford; "Pietism and Halle," by Rev. J. B. Focht; "Henry Melchior Muhlenberg," by Prof. E. J. Wolf, D. D.; "The Muhlenberg Family," by Rev. J. G. Morris, D. D., LL. D.; "Lutheranism in America Since the Death of Muhlenberg," by Rev. M. S. Cressman. These papers, with an account of the proceedings were published in pamphlet form and widely distributed.

This document closes as follows: "At the conclusion of this two days' celebration, rich in church history and doctrine, replete with Muhlenberg biography, and made most enjoyable by grand anthems and congregational singing, Synod formally presented to the Historical Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, through its honored President, the Rev. J. G. Morris, D. D., LL. D., a marble memorial bearing the following inscription:

For the Glory of God
and in honor of
HENRY MELCHIOR MUHLENBERG,
1711 1742 1887
Patriarch of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America,
this Memorial was erected by the
Susquehanna Synod
Oct. 7, 1887.
"Who and what he was, future ages
will know without marble."

This historic commemoration was very favorably commented upon by leading men in the Lutheran Church like Rev. B. M. Smucker, D. D., the distinguished Lutheran antiquarian who pronounced selection of topics practically perfect for the historic purpose in view, and by the venerable Dr. J. G. Morris, who in



J. H. ENGLE
1867-1878



REV. D. BORN, D. D.
1878-1883



J. C. HILL, ESQ.
1883-1893



G. W. DEPPEN
1893-1906



WM. DEISBOTH
1906-1909



E. C. MORGAN
1909-

THE SYNOD'S TREASURERS

his account in the Lutheran Observer referred to the Synod as "that enlightened Synod."

THE LUTHER ALLIANCE.

Something over thirty years ago, there developed a widespread feeling in the churches of America that societies of young people were needed. Accordingly, societies of varying types and names sprang up in many places. Among the largest has been the Society of Christian Endeavor founded by Rev. F. E. Clark, a Congregationalist.

Among American Lutherans, societies, mostly local in work and limits, and with many names and many aims were in existence. Naturally then, efforts were made to secure co-ordination, order and co-operation among these societies of Lutherans, and several types of Lutheran societies came into being, like the Lutheran League, Knights of Wartburg, Wlather League, and The Young People's Luther Alliance. Of these, the first still exists and is found in many of our Lutheran churches belonging to all our General Bodies, and larger independent synods, except those of the Synodical Conference. The Walther League is limited to "Missourians." The Luther Alliance had as its founder the Rev. S. P. Hughes, of St. Paul's, Williamsport.

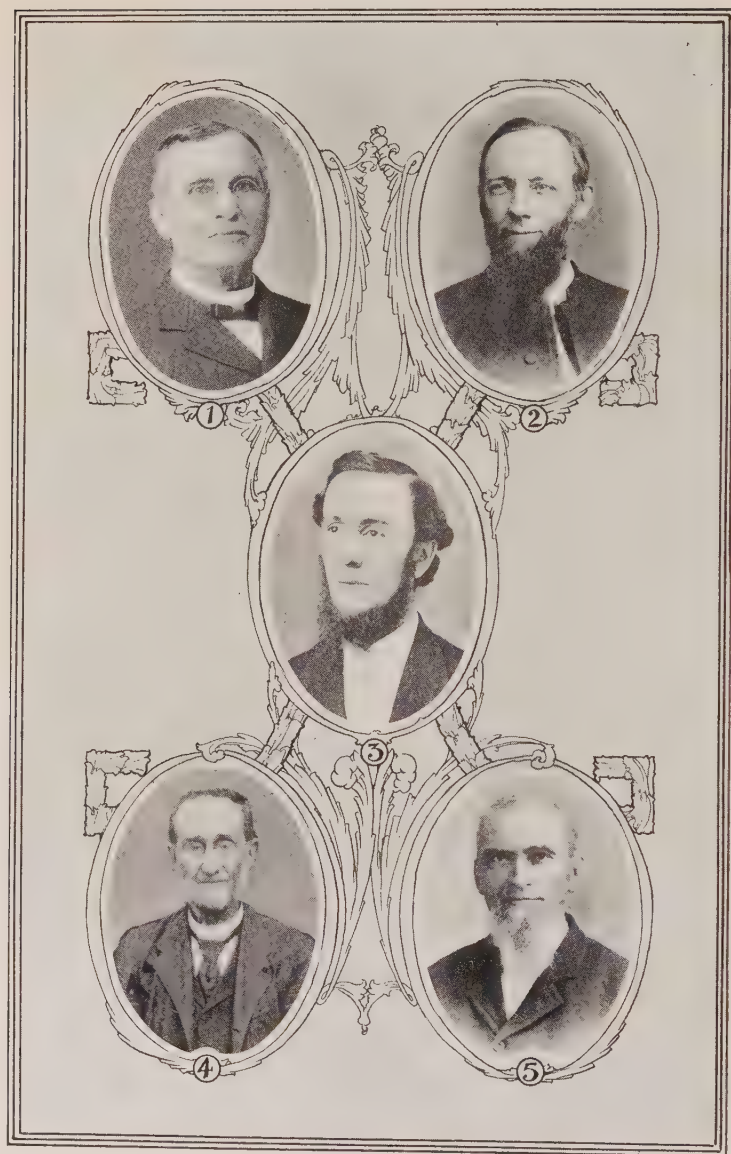
At the meeting of the Synod of May 23, 1890, at Catawissa, a committee consisting of Revs. J. M. Reimensnyder, J. A. Wirt and P. A. Heilman reported concerning the Alliance as follows:

"With reference to the organization of a Young People's Luther Alliance within its bounds and looking forward to its general organization through the Church:

"1. That we consider the organization of the young people of our Lutheran churches for development in active church work and in closer bonds of Christian fellowship, one of the most important questions of our time and as highly opportune.

"2. That we heartily endorse the organization of the Young People's Luther Alliance upon its present plan as set forth in its constitution and thoroughly adapted to reach the end desired.

"3. That we commend the Luther Alliance to the favorable consideration of the Church at large, and especially that Alliances be formed in the congregations within the bounds of our Synod wherever practicable."



Rev. S. P. Orwig

Rev. P. S. Mack

Rev. A. K. Zimmerman

Rev. T. C. Billheimer

Rev. J. B. Keller

The handbook of the Alliance, consisting of its constitution, by-laws, services and a selection of hymns, was published in neat booklet form by the Lutheran Publication Society, under the copyright of the Susquehanna Synod.

A considerable number of Alliances were organized in congregations belonging to different synods. However, they met with the usual difficulties found in keeping up societies after the early enthusiasm has spent its force.

Most of the young people's societies now in the Synod, as in the other Synods of the General Synod, are either Luther League or Christian Endeavor.

DEACONESS' WORK IN THE GENERAL SYNOD.

The direct beginnings of the Deaconess work in the General Synod took place in the Susquehanna Synod. The program for the meeting of the North Branch Conference in Mifflinville on March 13, 1883, provided for the discussion of the subject of "Deaconesses." Revs. D. M. Henkel, D. D., E. A. Sharretts, J. A. Flickinger and F. P. Manhart took part in the discussion, after which the Conference passed the following:

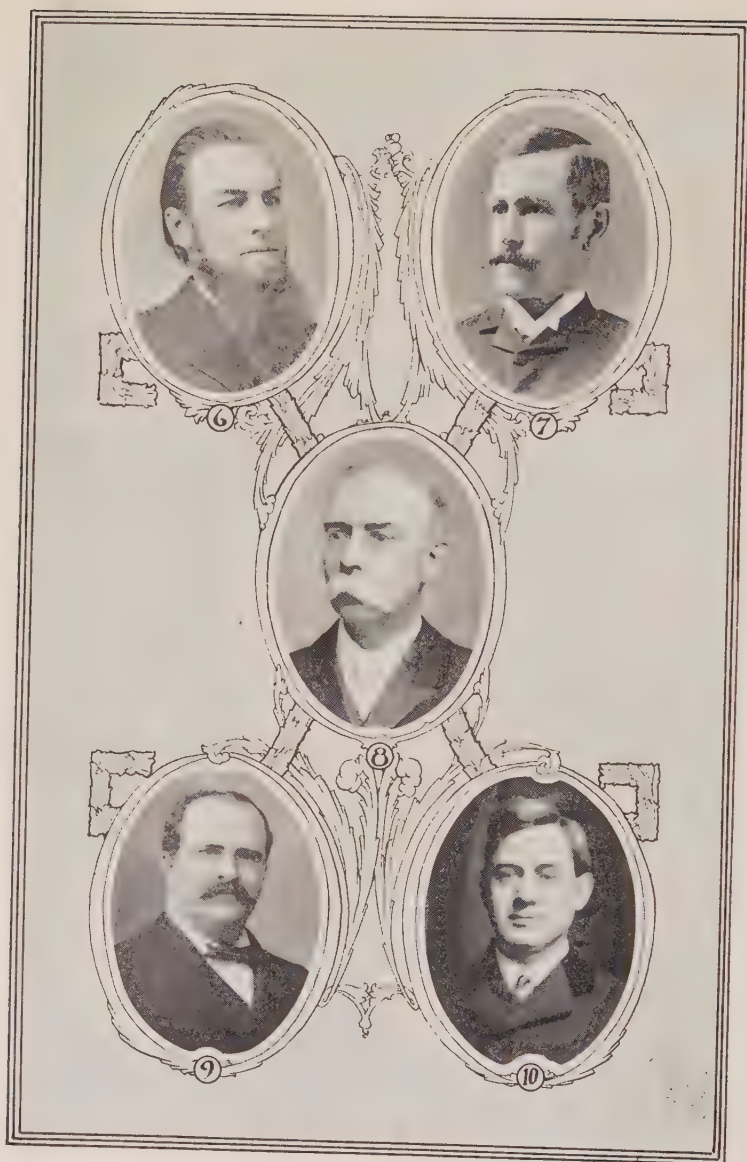
"That we believe there is an actual need of an order of deaconesses in our Church and we ask Synod at her next meeting to consider the matter."

The Synod at its meeting in Selinsgrove on June 4, 1883, voted: "That a committee of five be appointed to report upon this subject at the next session of our Synod, and that in the meantime our pastors and people be requested to give this subject the earnest consideration that its importance demands."

This committee reported to the Synod at its meeting in Williamsport on June 13, 1884, as follows:

The historical facts of importance to us in considering this question are as follows:

1. In the Apostolic Church there existed a female diaconate, with a mission similar to that of the male diaconate.
2. Under Theodore Fliehdner, a distinguished Lutheran minister of Germany (1800-1864), an order of Protestant Deaconesses grew up in connection with the great institutions of mercy at Kaiserswerth. They now number many thousands, and their beneficent Christian work, in hospitals, orphanages, Magdalen



Rev. S. G. Shannon

Rev. M. H. Fishburn

Rev. F. W. Staley

Rev. O. A. Mullen

Rev. J. S. English

asylums, mission fields and parishes, is known and honored in every quarter of the earth.

We believe that the work providentially laid upon the Church in these times demands that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America should recognize the power of American Women to work for Christ in all the ways in which her sisters of the primitive Church and the Fatherland have labored so successfully.

We respectfully request the General Synod to authorize the organization of deaconesses as aids to the pastor and church council in parish work, and their further institution to do such beneficent Christian work as the special needs of the Church may require.

At the meeting of the General Synod in Harrisburg, Pa., it was resolved "That the question of the establishment within our Church of an Order of Deaconesses be referred to a special committee, which shall report at the next convention of the General Synod.

In the interests of history it may be stated further : (1) That Rev. F. P. Manhart, then pastor at Bloomsburg, Pa., initiated this line of action and wrote and moved each resolution as above quoted in the Conference, the Synod and the General Synod, (2) That the Deaconesses work as thus begun and established in the General Synod was the first in the world of the Kaiserswerth type that was founded and directly controlled by a general church body; and (3) That the Deaconess work in the General Synod was the first of the Kaiserswerth type to make the parish work of the deaconess the first in practical importance, though all Motherhouses connected with the Kaiserswerth Conference held that to be nearest to the office and work of the Deaconesses in the days of the Apostles. They also hold that the direct founding and control of Motherhouses by Synods is true to the ideal of the female diaconate as a church office with Apostolic sanction.

THE LUTHERAN PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

The origin of the Lutheran Publication Society is directly traceable to the Susquehanna Conference. On Dec. 23, 1853, the Conference adopted the following:

WHEREAS, Our Church is yearly becoming more and more



Top row (left to right)—Rev. M. Rhodes, Rev. P. Born, D. D., Rev. S. G. Shannon, Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D.

Lower row (left to right)—Rev. M. J. Allenman, Rev. G. H. Hemperly, Rev. Geo. Parson, D. D.

Americanized and consequently adopting the English language, and

WHEREAS, Our Church literature is principally in the German language and other denominations are using and imitating our best theological works, therefore,

Resolved, That we agitate the idea of a Church Translating Society with a view of having the best works presented to us in an English dress by members of our own Church.

On Jan. 11, 1854, the Conference adopted a report prepared by Revs. D. H. Bittle, of Selinsgrove, P. Willard, of Danville and P. Born, of Sunbury. It consisted of twelve articles:

1. A society shall be organized to be called The Lutheran Translation and Publication Society.

2. Its object shall be to have translated and published in complete editions, in the English language, Orthodox Lutheran books, such as Arndt's True Christianity, Luther's Works, A Good Lutheran Commentary and other books on practical and dogmatic theology, church history, etc.

3, 4, 5. Provide for a capital of \$10,000 in stock at \$10 a share.

6. Provides for an Executive Committee to be elected by the stockholders.

7. Provides for a "Committee of Inspection" who shall examine all Mss.

8. Provides for a bonded treasurer.

9. Provides that the income, "as soon as it shall have any," shall be used for the support of disabled and superannuated Lutheran ministers and indigent widows and orphans of Lutheran ministers, with the exception of six per cent. annual dividends to stockholders.

10. Provides for the election of officers, the adoption of a constitution and the securing of a charter.

11. All Mss. to be approved by the "Committee of Inspection."

12. Operations to begin as soon as a sufficient number of stockholders is secured.

The Conference directed that its members should interview other ministers and their members about taking stock.

On Feb. 28, 1854, the Conference passed resolutions affirming that the Society "is loudly called for by the interests of the Lutheran Church in the United States," and that a convention



Rev. Frank P. Manhart

should be called, that May 7, 1854, and Zion Church, Harrisburg, Rev. C. A. Hay, pastor, would be a desirable time and place, for such a convention to organize the Society.

At a meeting of the Conference on April 12, 1854, a committee was appointed "to draw up a memorial * * * to bring the matter before Synods and the Church."

This committee consisting of Revs. D. H. Bittle, of Selinsgrove, J. Winecoff, of Milton, and C. J. Ehrehart, of Shamokin, prepared and published this memorial or appeal.

This Conference at the same meeting asked Rev. J. A. Brown, of Reading, the delegate of the East Pennsylvania Synod, to the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, to present this subject to it. He did so, on June 15, 1854, at Lancaster.

On June 16, 1854, the committee reported "that they had issued an address and sent it forth to the world."

On Sept. 23, 1854, the East Pennsylvania Synod, in session at Lewisburg, as requested by the Conference, appointed a committee consisting of Rev. G. Parson, D. H. Bittle and W. W. Hermin and adopted this report calling for the approval of the Conference's appeal for a publication and fixing a day for a convention to organize it.

This convention was held on May 1, 1855, in Trinity Church, Germantown, Rev. L. E. Albert, pastor. Here the Society was organized. It enlisted the official and personal support of the leading divines and laymen of the Church and became a great factor in the Church's life in America.

Six times within a year the men of Susquehanna Conference acted upon this important matter.

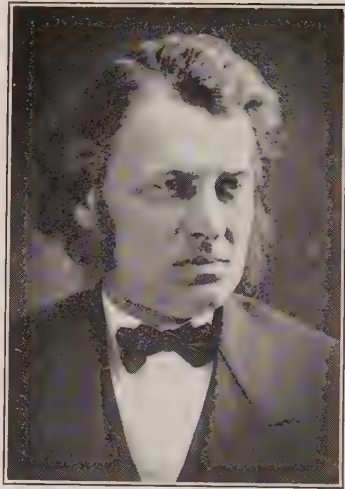
In addition to those named above Revs. R. A. Fink, F. Ruthrauf, M. J. Alleman, J. Evans, P. Sheeder, S. Yingling, H. Ziegler, Reuben Hill and C. C. Culler were members of the Conference. Clearly they were men of faith and vision.

REUNIONS.

Beginning with the year 1883, 400 years after Luther's birth, three annual reunions of Lutherans were held at Rupert, Pa. These reunions brought together members of General Synod and General Council churches. A careful estimate placed the number in 1883 at 6,000, and the number in 1884 somewhat



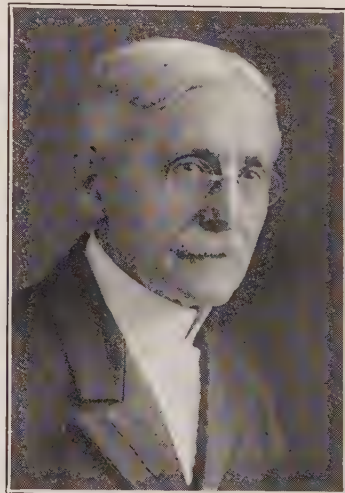
Rev. S. M. Mountz



Rev. Prof. A. R. Horne, D.D.



Rev. J. I. Stonecypher



Rev. S. J. Taylor, D.D.

higher. Meetings for the arrangement of these reunions were held in the home of Rev. D. M. Henkel, D. D., in Catawissa and were shared in by Revs. U. Myers and J. H. Neiman, of Catawissa, J. R. Groff, of Danville and F. P. Manhart, of Bloomsburg. Rev. Groff trained the singers who sang *Ein Feste Burg*, and other hymns and anthems.

The first reunion was addressed by Rev. W. Ashmead Shaeffer, D. D., of Wilkes-Barre, Rev. J. G. Morris, D. D., LL. D., of Baltimore and by some local pastors.

After a few years reunions were again held in the Susquehanna region, at such places near Sunbury as Clement Park, Island Park, Shikillimny, and Rolling Green, and at Edgewood Park, Shamokin and at Milton Park.

The committees to arrange the reunions were composed of men of the General Synod and General Council. At many of the later reunions, Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder, D. D., as chairman of the committee, presided. Among the speakers who came from outside the territory were the following well-known divines of the Lutheran Church: Rev. T. L. Seip, D. D.; E. J. Wolff, D. D., LL. D.; Jacob Fry, D. D., LL. D.; Ja. A. Clutz, D. D.; T. B. Roth, D. D.; G. W. Enders, D. D.; C. W. Sandt, D. D.; J. A. Singmaster, D. D.; E. F. Bachman, D. D.; J. B. Reimensnyder, D. D., LL. D.; J. C. Seegers, D. D.; D. A. Day, D. D., and H. E. Jacobs, D. D., LL. D.

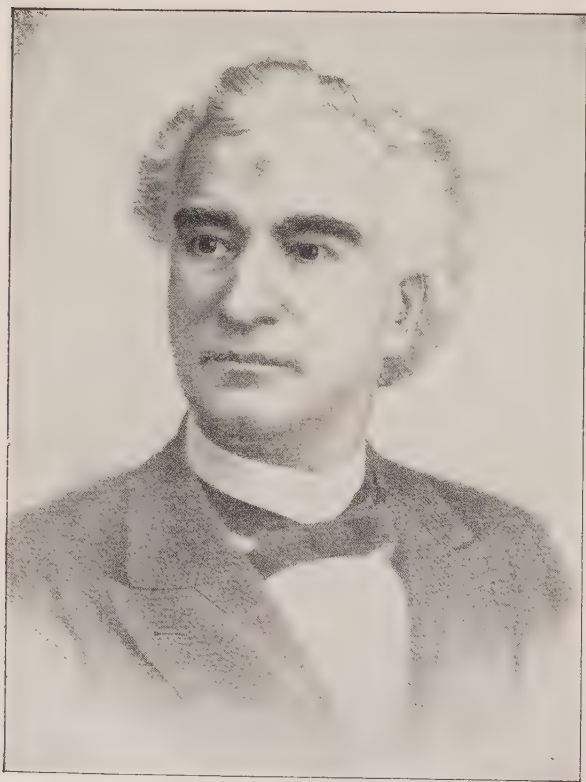
The address of Dr. Jacobs at the reunion at Island Park on August 28, 1902, on *The Permanent and the Changeable in Lutheranism*, was so well received that 5,000 copies of it were printed.

The last of these reunions was held at Milton Park in 1914.

TRIAL OF REV. A. R. HORNE.

At the organization of the Synod in 1867, Rev. A. R. Horne, pastor of St. Mark's, in Williamsport, took a very active part, making important motions concerning matters of organization and serving on important committees and on the Board of the Gettysburg Seminary.

At the meeting of the Synod in Selinsgrove, Pa., on June 3, 1870 there was recived a letter for Synod from a committee of the Williamsport congregation requesting the adjournment of



Rev. C. F. Steck, D. D.

this body to Williamsport, for the consideration of charges to be preferred against Rev. A. R. Horne. Accordingly the Synod convened in special meeting in Williamsport on June 21 and 22.

A protest was sent by the Synod to the Synod of Pennsylvania on June 7, against the reception of Rev. Horne, by that body. He, however, was received by it.

At the special meeting on June 21 and 22 Rev. Horne was tried. Rev. Morris, Officer of the Superintendent of Home Missions of the General Synod and the founder of the General Synod's Muhlenburg Mission in Africa, was selected to conduct the trial. Rev. P. Rizer, President of the East Pennsylvania Synod, had part in the trial. Rev. Horne had joined the Synod of Pennsylvania without a dismissal from the Susquehanna Synod, and had induced St. Mark's church to leave the General Synod and enter the General Council, along with doing these things he criticized the General Synod and lauded the General Council. A strong minority opposed him in these matters and afterward organized St. Paul's.

The general witnesses examined were: Mr. A. J. Weise, Mr. Samuel Wagner, Mr. Samuel Harrington, J. C. Hill, Esq., Rev. P. Born, former President of Susquehanna Synod, Rev. P. Rizer, President of the East Pennsylvania Synod, and Rev. B. F. Alleman, Secretary of the Susquehanna Synod. Later further testimony on specific charges was given by Messrs. S. E. Furst, Esq., J. C. Hill, Esq., J. B. Duble, J. J. Metzger, H. H. Otto, and A. J. Weise.

The verdict sustained the general charge and the three specifications, *unanimously*. He was then, by series of five whereases and two resolutions, expelled "with the deepest regret," that the Synod was "constrained to take this step in reference to one who has been a member of our Synod since its origin and one of its founders."

Dr. Horne continued in the Lutheran ministry until his death. He also attained considerable eminence as an educator, being City Superintendent of Schools in Williamsport, Pa., 1867 to 1871, then principal of the Kutztown Normal School, and was further connected with educational work in Muhlenburg College, and in the states of Louisiana, Texas, New York, etc.

This trial is referred to only as an illustration of the various



Rev. Isaiah Irvine



Rev. Roy J. Meyer



Rev. C. R. Bowers



Rev. C. A. Lantz

unhappy contentions and personal and synodical frictions and separations that followed the division of the General Synod in 1866 and the organization of the General Council in 1867.

These things are now, for the most part, only matters of history, since the strong tendencies are toward fraternity and co-operation and the ultimate unity of all Lutherans in America.

MISSIONARIES.

The men ordained by the Synod who have been foreign missionaries are: Rev. Isaac Cannaday ordained in 1902 and since a missionary in India; Rev. F. M. Traub, of St. Matthew's, Bloomsburg, ordained in 1903 and since a missionary in Africa; Rev. W. R. Miller, ordained in 1903, who died as a missionary in Africa; and Rev. J. D. Curran, ordained in 1911 and since a missionary in Africa.

Rev. J. M. Rice who was a missionary in Africa, after his return served the Buckhorn-Espy pastorate, 1867-1870.

Rev. C. H. Brosius has been a member of the Synod since 1898. He was pastor of Grace, Sunbury, from 1898 to 1907. He has been a missionary in Liberia, Africa, since 1907.

DELEGATES TO OTHER SYNODS.

For a number of years the practice obtained of exchanging delegates, or official visitors, with other Synods. These Synods were the East Pennsylvania, Central Pennsylvania, West Pennsylvania and Allegheny. With the increasing number of men coming to the Synods as representatives of the general educational, missionary and eleemosynary interests of the church and the shortening of the time covered by the annual conventions of the Synod, this exchange of official visits ceased.

BANQUETS.

In 1914 the North Branch Conference invited the Pastors' Association of the Danville Conference to co-operate in arranging for a banquet for Lutherans. This was done. The first one was held on June 25, 1914, Augsburg Confession Day, in the Assembly Rooms in Zion's, Sunbury. The speakers were: Prof.



Rev. C. G. Bikle

G. T. Ettinger, Ph. D., of Muhlenburg College and H. T. Domer, Esq., of Washington, D. C.

On motion of Rev. H. D. Spaeth, D. D., of Williamsport, it was resolved to hold a banquet each year on or near Augsburg Confession Day. Banquets were held at the same place in 1915 and 1916. The speakers in 1915 were: Rev. J. A. Singmaster, D. D., President of the General Synod and Mr. Harry Hodges, of Philadelphia. The speakers in 1916 were: Rev. John W. Richards, of Philadelphia and Judge A. W. Johnson, of Lewisburg, Pa.

THE SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD.

The people who constitute the membership of the Susquehanna Synod, are mostly, through by no means exclusively the descendants of immigrants from Germany. At the time of its organization in 1867 there was not a congregation in it in which German was more than partially used in the public services, and such congregations were quite few.

The churches of the Synod naturally show traces of all of the traits and peculiarities of thorough Americans and thorough Lutherans whose experiences during the various generations since the beginnings of their life in Colonial America have been natural and largely inevitable when all of the elements of their race, language, faith, culture and political, social and religious environment are duly considered.

THE PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD.

When the Patriarch, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, came to America in 1742, he found the Lutheran people here in scattered and, for the most part, from the standpoint of the Church, very unfavorable conditions.

They had no common organization, they had few worthy pastors, were often imposed on by unworthy men who claimed to be ministers, were troubled by abounding sects and sectarians, with a marvelous variety of vagaries and notions, while they were further seriously handicapped by the lack of knowledge of the English language, the lack of schools, etc., etc.

Muhlenberg richly deserves all of the high credit given him for his work as a founder and organizer, and to this day he re-



Rev. John McCron, D. D.



Rev. J. E. Dale

mains the strongest personal influence and factor that has appeared in the history of the Lutheran Church in America.

Muhlenberg organized the Ministerium or Synod of Pennsylvania, in 1748. Naturally, during the periods that followed, its growth was slow.

The Revolutionary War and the influence of the deism, rationalism, infidelity and confessional laxity were factors in retarding the normal and healthful development of the Lutherans in America.

Still, the Lutheran Church lived, grew and gradually acquired organizations measureably adequate to her needs and development. By 1820 there were six synods and in that year farseeing men like Drs. S. Schmucker, Benjamin Kurtz and G. Shober, led in the organization of the General Synod and thus the Lutheran Church was saved from disintegration and absorption.

To Hartwick Seminary, started in 1797, and at its present location in 1815, was added the Seminary at Gettysburg in 1826, the Ohio Synod and the Southern Seminaries in 1830 and the College at Gettysburg in 1832. Thus adequate foundations were being laid for the educational work essential to the well-being of the Lutheran Church in America.

In 1824, the churches of the Pennsylvania Synod west of the Susquehanna formed the West Pennsylvania Synod, and united with the General Synod, thus largely offsetting the weakening of the General Synod by withdrawal of the Pennsylvania Synod in 1823.

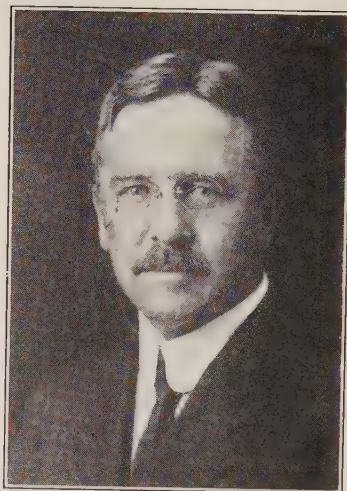
SYNOD OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA.

In 1842, the Synod of East Pennsylvania was formed by ministers and congregations of the Pennsylvania Synod. Rev. J. P. Shindel, of Sunbury, was the first regular President of this Synod. It united with the General Synod.

The Susquehanna Conference of this Synod was organized in 1845 and included the territory now covered by the Susquehanna Synod.

As a Conference it included ministers and congregations that were among the most active, devoted and successful in the Synod.

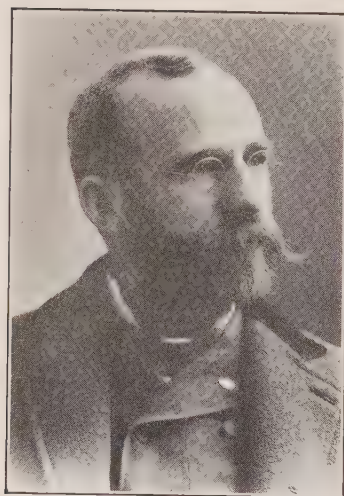
The East Pennsylvania Synod met at the following places in the Susquehanna Conference: Milton, 1846; Selinsgrove, 1848;



Rev. F. W. Meyer



Rev. H. C. Michael



Rev. W. G. Thrall



Rev. H. W. Miller

Danville, 1851; Lewisburg, 1854; Hughesville, 1856; Bloomsburg, 1858; Sunbury, 1860; Milton, 1863; and Danville, 1866.

The following members of the Susquehanna Conference or Synod were: Presidents of the East Pennsylvania Synod; Revs. J. P. Shindle, J. Ruthrauff, G. Parson, R. A. Fink, J. R. Dimm, J. Swartz and T. C. Billheimer.

The Susquehanna Conference was distinguished for its missionary zeal and for its deep interests in the general welfare of the Church.

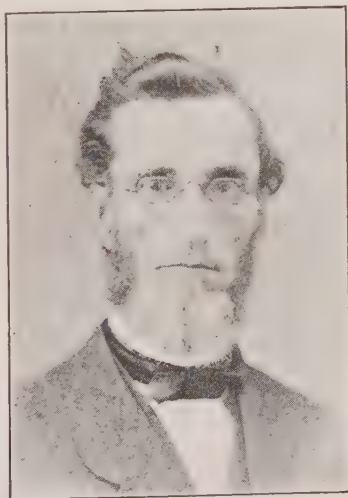
It was through this missionary spirit that the Synod has had its steady growth, as it was through its interest in the Lutheran Church as represented by the General Synod and by Lutherans in other bodies, that its influence has been both broad and deep.

THE SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD.

The following accounts of the origin and organization of the Synod are taken from its minutes of 1867.



Rev. J. L. Smithdeal



Rev. Geo. Eicholtz



REV. J. T. WILLIAMS



REV. J. R. WILLIAMS



REV. R. H. WILLIAMS

THREE GENERATIONS

PROCEEDINGS
of the
Convention Which Formed the
SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

MONTOURSVILLE, Nov. 5, 1867—P. M.

The Susquehanna Conference having adjourned sine die, and its former members, both clerical and lay, being assembled in Convention for the purpose of forming a Synod, a temporary organization was effected by electing Rev. A. R. Horne, President, and Rev. E. J. Wolf, Secretary, of the meeting.

Prayer was offered by Rev. E. J. Wolf.

After a long discussion, relating to the legitimacy of members of this Convention, the following was adopted:

Resolved, That all the ministers and lay delegates present, who with their respective congregations, purpose connecting themselves with the proposed new Synod, but have not yet been dismissed from the East Pennsylvania Synod, shall be entitled to seats as members of this Convention and be permitted to enter into the organization of the said new Synod, and shall be regarded as regular members of the same as soon as their certificates of dismission from the Synod to which they now belong shall have been presented.

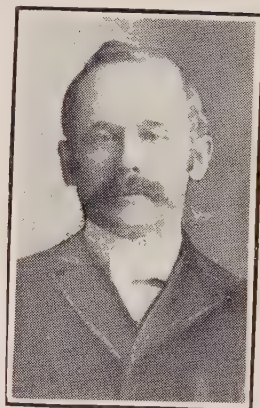
In accordance with this resolution, the following ministers and lay delegates were constituted members of the Convention:

LIST OF MEMBERS.

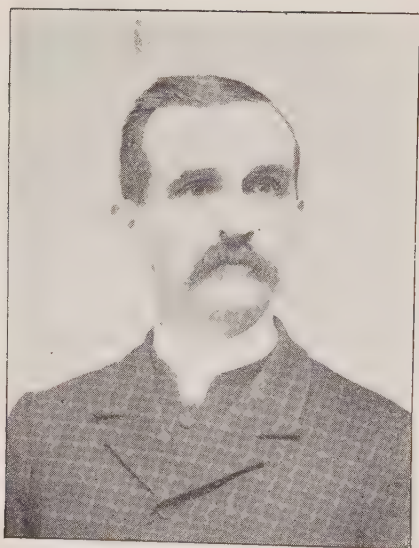
<i>Clerical.</i>	<i>Lay.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>
J. Evans,	I. S. Sterner,	Lewisburg.
G. W. Hemperly,	J. H. Engel,	Sunbury.
A. W. Lentz,	Matthias App,	Montgomery Station.
E. A. Sharretts,	Jonas Yeakle,	Hughesville.
George Eicholtz,		Lairdsville.



Rev. S. F. Tholan



Rev. P. B. Fasold



Rev. U. Myers, D.D.



Rev. O. D. S. Marcley

A. H. Shertz,	Philip Cresy,	
G. M. Rhodes,	A. J. Grantz,	Danville.
E. J. Wolf,	William Follmer,	Turbotville.
J. L. Smithdeal,	William Lewars,	Montoursville.
J. B. Keller,		Shamokin.
J. B. Shoup,	Joseph Wolf,	
S. Domer,		Selinsgrove.
J. M. Rice,	N. S. Tingley,	Espey.
B. F. Alleman,	Jacob Bidelman,	Bloomsburg.
A. R. Horne,	David M. Kieffer,	Williamsport.
D. Beckner,	Stephen Baldy,	Catawissa.
Joseph Hillpot,	A. M. Sanders,	
H. B. Winton.	Joseph Solliday,	Jersey Shore.

(To these names, those of Prof. Peter Born, of Selinsgrove; Rev. George Parsons, of Muncy, and Rev. M. L. Shindel, of Selinsgrove, though they were not present, should be added, as they were counted members and appointed on standing committees.)

The following officers were elected: President, Rev. Joshua Evans; Secretary, Rev. E. J. Wolf, and Treasurer, Mr. J. H. Engel.

On motion of Prof. S. Domer, the following action was taken:

WHEREAS, The members of the Susquehanna Conference were dismissed from the East Pennsylvania Synod, at its late meeting, held in Pottsville, Pa., with the view to the formation of a new Synod within the bounds of said Conference; and

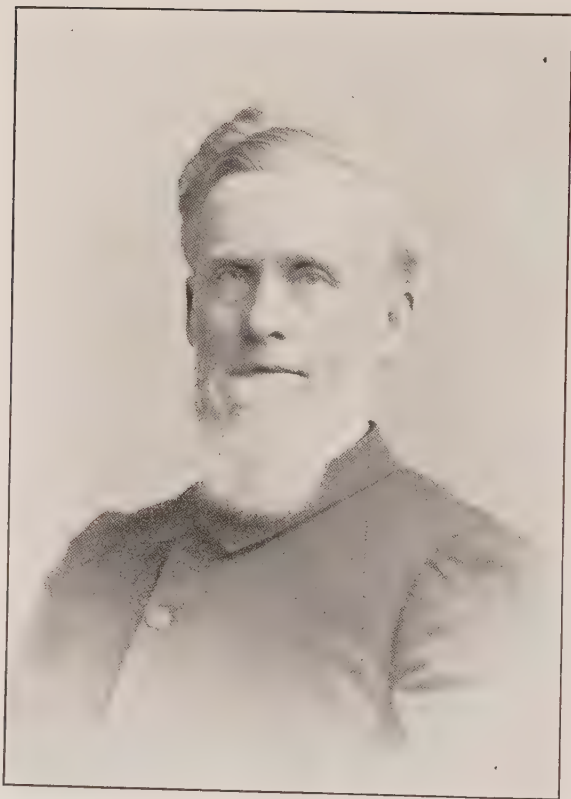
WHEREAS, According to appointment, we have now met in Convention to form said Synod, therefore,

Resolved, (1) That we now and hereby constitute ourselves a Synod, to be called "The Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church."

(2) That we adopt the Constitution and By-Laws of the East Pennsylvania Synod until a new Constitution shall have been prepared and adopted.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Rev. E. A. Sharretts, from Committee No. 3, offered the following:



Rev. Samuel Domer, D.D.

The Committee appointed "to prepare a short historical sketch of the Susquehanna Conference and a statement of the reasons leading to the formation of the Susquehanna Synod" respectfully offer the following:

From the examination of the records of Conference, which the limited time allowed us, permitted, we learn that the Susquehanna Conference was organized on the 15th of January, A. D. 1845. According to previous notice the following brethren, viz.: Revs. Geo. Parsons, Eli Schwartz, Charles Witmer, Henry Ziegler, and John Kohler, met at the house of Mr. Simon Follmer, in Milton, Jan. 15, 1845, when a preamble and resolutions, looking to the formation of a Conference, were offered by Bro. Witmer, and adopted. Rev. H. Ziegler was appointed to draw up a Constitution. On the following morning the Constitution was presented and adopted with amendments.

This was the commencement of an organization whose operations have effected a change for good in the entire moral aspect of a wide extent of country, numbering at first only five ministers, with a territory stretching as far and as wide as the limits of the present Synod, and with a membership numerically small those brethren labored on earnestly and in hope: and by the blessing of God succeeded in the accomplishment of a work whose results the great day of eternity alone will fully disclose.

As the years passed those large pastoral districts were divided; accessions were made to the ministerial roll; greater efficiency, because of these accessions, displayed itself, until the Susquehanna Conference became a power in the Church, the influence of whose actions reached far beyond the boundary that marked its geographical limits.

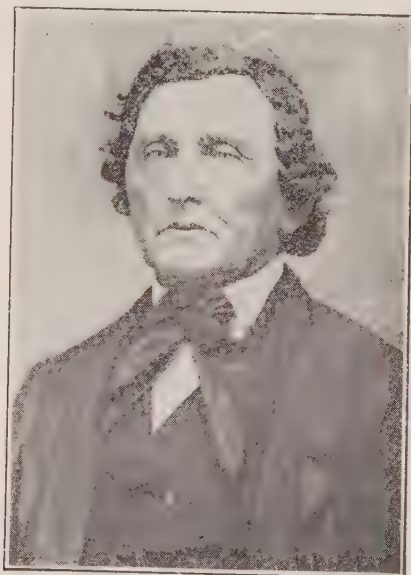
The names of Father J. P. Shindel, F. Ruthrauff, Eggero, Eyer, Weiser, Zeigler, Evans, Fink, Parson, Willard, &c., some of whom have passed from the church militant to the church triumphant, and others of whom are now fathers in the church, appear upon the roll of names, the seeds of divine truth germinated and flourished, the little rill has become a stream, widening and deepening; until to-day the Susquehanna Synod, the result of that little work of faith, begun by the little band of brethren in a private house in Milton, stands out before the Church and the world as a fact, whose organization commencing



Rev. Isaac Cannady



Rev. A. W. Baker



Rev. John Jacob Albert



Rev. G. T. Snyder

in prayer and faith is yet, we trust, to tell for good upon the character and destiny of many precious immortal souls.

The formation of this Synod grew out of an earnest desire to promote more effectually the great work in which the brethren were engaged—that of saving souls and building up the Kingdom of Christ. Believing that this work could be done as a Synod more efficiently than as a Conference, efforts were made from time to time for years, looking to the formation of a Synod upon the territory of Conference, without any successful result, until within the last year, such efforts were made, and with such unanimity of purpose, as have culminated in the accomplishment of the long-cherished and earnestly desired purpose.

And now with grateful hearts, remembering the great goodness of our Heavenly Father in the past, remembering the great success with which He has crowned the efforts of the brethren of Conference in winning souls to Christ, in building churches, in forming pastoral charges, and in developing the resources of the Church on the territory of Conference, and taking courage for the future, in the name of our God we will set up our banners and go forward, we trust, to glorious victory over the world, the flesh and the devil.

Respectfully submitted,

E. A. SHARRETT,
S. DOMER,
A. R. HORNE.

CONSTITUTION.

The Synod, in 1867, resolved to adopt the constitution and by-laws of its mother Synod, that of East Pennsylvania, until a constitution could be prepared and adopted. The committee to frame this constitution consisted of Revs. Prof. P. Born, M. L. Shindel, and D. Beckner.

This committee reported at the "First Regular Meeting of the Susquehanna Synod," held in Zion Lutheran Church, April 23-27, 1868. The constitution was adopted on April 25. In the main it followed the principles of the Formula of Government set forth officially by the General Synod.

The doctrinal position was stated thus: "The Synod receives and believes the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be



Rev. J. M. Steck, D. D.

the inspired word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice; and receives and believes the Augsburg Confession to be a summary of the fundamental doctrines of the Word of God."

In the ordination service the candidate was required to assent to the following:

"The fundamental doctrines of the Word of God are correctly taught in the doctrinal articles of the Augsburg confession, viz: The existence of God; the Trinity of the Godhead; the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; the universal depravity of men; the Saviour's vicarious sufferings and death; the justification of the sinner by faith in the Son of God; the necessity of the Holy Spirit to regenerate and sanctify the soul; the holy catholic (or universal) church; the divine institution of the ministry; the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; the necessity of repentance and good works; the return of Christ to judge the world in righteousness; the resurrection of the dead; the everlasting blessedness of the righteous; the eternal punishments of the wicked."

This constitution provided that all synodical business should be transacted by the Synod as a whole, that is, by the ministers and the lay delegates, thus making no provision for a ministerium, as all other Synods in the General Synod at that time did.

This constitution, also, made no provision for licensure. These two features were its outstanding peculiarities.

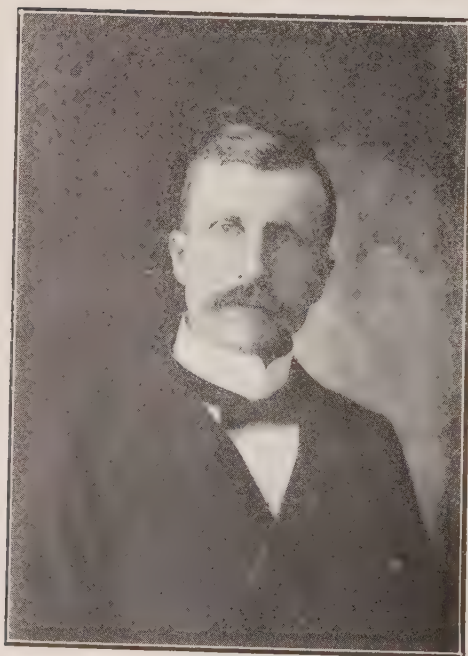
The Synod has at various times amended and revised its constitution, but has made no marked departure from its original character, save that its doctrinal basis, like that of the General Synod, became from time to time more definitely and explicitly Lutheran. Its present basis, like that of the General Synod, is expressed as follows:

Doctrinal Basis.

With the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Fathers, the Susquehanna Synod receives and holds the Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice; and it receives and holds the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a correct exhibition of the faith and doctrine of our Church as founded upon the Word.



Rev. J. E. Byers



Rev. J. W. Shannon

The Secondary Symbols.

While the Susquehanna Synod regards the Augsburg Confession as a sufficient and altogether adequate doctrinal basis for the co-operation of Lutheran Synods, it also recognizes the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalkald Articles, the Small Catechism of Luther, the Large Catechism of Luther, and the formula of Concord as expositions of Lutheran doctrine of great historical and interpretative value, and especially commends the Small Catechism as a book of instruction.

In advance of corresponding changes, set forth by the General Synod in its book of Ministerial Acts, the Susquehanna Synod in 1913 incorporated the doctrinal basis as above stated in the ordination vow and in statement required of a minister on his reception from another communion.

A thoroughly revised constitution, prepared by a committee, and embodying the doctrinal features just named, is now before the Synod. [Adopted 1917.]

The practices of the pastors and congregations have always been such as would justify their claim to be Lutheran, yet there has been a steady advance toward greater uniformity in teaching, worship and practice, thus evincing a steady development towards a riper consistency in matters of faith and life as understood by Lutheran Christians.

It is noticeable that during the earlier period when a certain class of "special meetings" was held by some churches, yet catechization was practiced not only as "a time-honored custom," but for its recognized value and Lutheran character as a method of indoctrination and Christian nurture. The "special services," now held, as a rule center about Holy Week and culminate in the Easter Festival.

The division of the Synod at its beginning into two Conferences, called North Branch and West Branch respectively, has remained unchanged.

RELATION TO THE GENERAL SYNOD.

The Synod, at a special meeting held in Muncy, on Feb. 11 and 12, 1869, adopted the proposed amended Constitution of the General Synod and elected delegates to its next convention. This Constitution is still that of the General Synod, except for



Rev. H. B. Winton

the articles on doctrinal basis and representation, which were amended at the convention in Atchison, Kansas, in 1913.

The delegates to the General Synod were: Rev's. G. W. Hemperley, S. Domer, and M. L. Shindel, and Messrs. J. H. Engle and J. Beidelman. They reported that the "Synod's adoption of the Doctrinal Basis of the General Synod cleared the way for a cordial reception of your delegates. The name of the Susquehanna Synod was at once placed on the roll of Synods constituting the General Synod."

This meeting of the General Synod in Washington in 1869, closely following its weakening by the withdrawal of Synods in 1866, and by the organization of the General Council in 1867, is memorable for its adoption of a revised constitution with a clearer doctrinal basis, and the changing of most of the old "Societies" into the "Boards" that have since been such important factors in the work of the General Synod.

INCORPORATION.

The Synod was incorporated on Nov. 5, 1869, by the Court of Northumberland County. Revs. J. R. Focht, G. W. Hemperley, and G. Parson, as a committee, prepared the charter. This report in 1869, is as follows: "In the preparation of the Articles of Incorporation of this Synod, the chairman of your committee examined a large number of charters of different Lutheran Synods, and finally made the Charter of the Central Synod the basis of the incorporation of this Synod. A petition with the Articles of Incorporation, was presented to the Court (of Northumberland County) at the August Term, by L. T. Rohrbach, Esq., and passed the fifth of November last. The cost is one dollar and sixty cents; ten cents for paper and one dollar and fifty cents, which is half price, for recording the Charter."

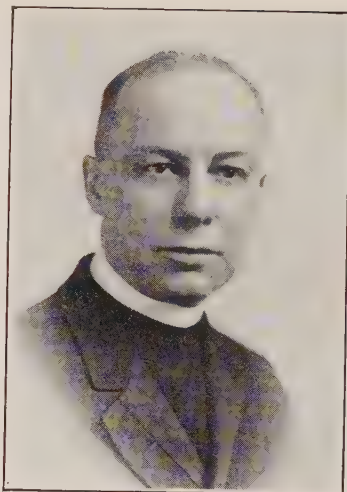
At the same time the seal was approved. It was secured "through the kind assistance of J. K. Schryock, General Agent of the Lutheran Publication Society." It cost eight dollars.

FIRST ORDINATION.

On Monday evening, April 27, 1868, during the closing session of the "First Regular Meeting of the Susquehanna Synod," an ordination service was held. Rev. E. A. Sharretts, the presi-



Rev. C. R. Botsford



Rev. L. W. Walter



Rev. J. E. Zimmerman



Rev. O. E. Sunday

dent, "preached from Acts 20:28, after which the following brethren were solemnly ordained to the Gospel ministry:

Rev. B. F. Alleman, Bloomsburg, Pa.

Rev. T. C. Billheimer, Watsontown, Pa.

Rev. Joseph Hillpot, Cogan's Run, Pa.

Rev. J. G. Griffith, Williamsport, Pa.

Rev. J. A. Adams, Mt. Carmel, Pa.

Rev. J. P. Neff, M. D., Liberty, Pa."

Of these men, Rev. E. A. Sharretts, D. D. (age 92), who has been a member of the Synod since its beginning; Rev. B. F. Alleman, D. D., of Lancaster, Pa., and Rev. T. C. Billheimer, D. D., Emeritus Professor of Gettysburg Theological Seminary, are still living.

PROPOSED UNION OF SYNODS.

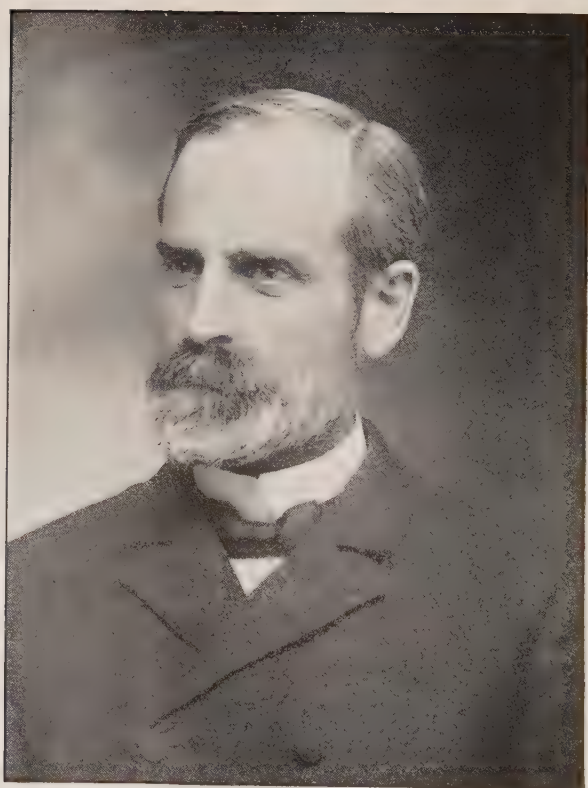
In 1872, the East Pennsylvania Synod passed the following: "That the Susquehanna Synod be kindly and affectionately invited to return to this body." Regarding this invitation, after careful consideration, the Synod, "by a decided majority," passed the following: Resolved, That we reciprocate the regard of the Synod of East Pennsylvania, but do not think that the time has yet arrived when it would be desirable for us to seek a re-union."

In 1915, the Susquehanna Synod, invited the Synod of Central Pennsylvania to unite with it. Each Synod appointed a committee of conference on this matter, and its consideration is still pending.

GROWTH.

The growth of the Synod is indicated broadly by these figures: Confirmed membership in 1867, 4,500; confirmed membership in 1917, 21,000. It is to be deeply regretted that while the number of ministers is much larger than at the beginning, it has not increased as has the membership or as the needs demand.

With the steady development of the towns and cities in her territory, the congregations in these places have so grown that they constitute the bulk of the Synod's strength. The lack of a corresponding growth in the country pastorates of the Synod, and in some instances their material decline in numbers and financial strength, has presented some serious problems. The city of



Rev. J. B. Focht, D. D.

Williamsport is the outstanding instance of the Synod's growth in a city. In 1867 one congregation, St. Mark's with its pastor, Rev. Dr. A. R. Horn, co-operated in the formation of the Synod. In 1870, the pastor and congregation left the Synod, which then was without a congregation in Williamsport. Beginning with St. Paul's, and including Messiah in South Williamsport, the Synod now has in Williamsport six vigorous congregations with 3,000 confirmed members, or about one-seventh of the strength of the Synod.

Beginning in Hazleton in 1874, as a mission congregation with fourteen members, Trinity Church numbers 780 confirmed members. Rev. John Wagner, D. D., was the organizer and has been the only pastor. These specific instances of development in the cities and towns in Synod's territory must suffice.

FIELD FOR GROWTH.

The Synod has the opportunity for steady growth wherever her established congregations are found. It has also, a large territory where but little has yet been done, and where mission work of an aggressive and sympathetic type is urgently needed. The lack of ministers is the chief difficulty.

SUSQUEHANNA FEMALE COLLEGE.

With the founding of Missionary Institute at Selinsgrove, Pa., in 1858, was associated the founding of Susquehanna Female College at the same place. The first principal was Prof. C. C. Baughman, formerly principal of the Hagerstown Female Seminary. He was followed in 1864 by Rev. S. Domer, D. D., who was succeeded in 1869 by Prof. Wm. Noettling, Pd. D., who served until 1873 when it was practically merged with Missionary Institute, which then became co-educational.

During the period of its activity, it was encouraged and fostered by Susquehanna Conference and Susquehanna Synod.

Many young women within the bounds of the Conference and Synod and from without were educated there and thereby made more active and useful in the Church.



Rev. L. H. Waring, Ph.D.



Rev. J. R. Sample



Rev. J. A. Flickinger



Rev. Joel Swartz, D.D.

A COINCIDENCE.

Rev. Joshua Evans, pastor at Lewisburg, was a delegate to the General Synod in 1868. While attending that body in Zion Church, Harrisburg, Pa., in May, he had a paralytic stroke from the effects of which he died in January, 1869.

Rev. I. H. McGann, pastor at Lewisburg, was a delegate to the General Synod in 1907. While attending it in Zion, Sunbury, in May, he was stricken with paralysis, from the effects of which he died the same day.



Rev. Moses Grossman



MRS. F.J. SCHOCH



MRS. W.H. SCHOCH



MRS. G.P. FRYMIRE

MRS. IDA HERRING
SEC. 5 YRS., TREAS. 12 YRS.

MRS. J.R. DIMM



MRS. M.L. SHINDEL



MRS. R.R. BANNEN



MRS. J. WAGNER



MRS. J.F. SEEBACH



MRS. H.C. MICHAEL

PRESIDENTS OF THE WOMAN'S HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

WOMAN'S HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the Susquehanna Synod was organized at Northumberland in 1881. The accompanying statement of places of meeting, officers, membership and receipts, in part, epitomizes the history and fine results of this excellent organization of women of the Synod.

It has been among the most energetic and liberal in work and giving of the Synodical societies in the General Synod.



Miss Mary E. Lowe



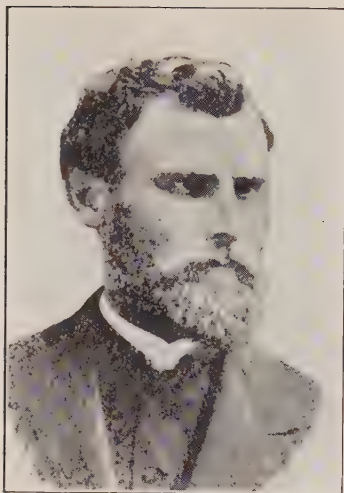
Miss Jessie Brewer



Rev. J. Yutzy, D.D.

CONVENTIONS AND OFFICERS

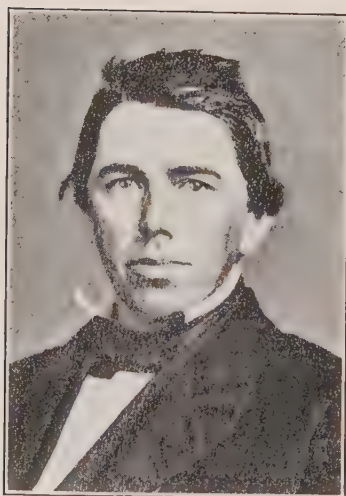
Number.	Year.	Place.	President.	Secretary.	Treasurer.	Members.	Total Money.
1	1881	Northumberland	Mrs. F. J. Schoch	Miss Annie Gauger	Mrs. E. B. Killinger	209	\$138 26
2	1882	Montoursville	Mrs. F. J. Schoch	Miss Ada Hill	Mrs. H. J. Schleppey	457	470 45
3	1883	Selinsgrove	Mrs. F. J. Schoch	Miss Ada Hill	Mrs. H. J. Schleppey	417	603 76
4	1884	Williamsport	Mrs. F. J. Schoch	Miss Ada Hill	Mrs. H. J. Schleppey	821	1053 72
5	1885	Bloomsburg	Mrs. Ramsdell	Miss M. O. Tillson	Mrs. H. J. Schleppey	700	634 98
6	1886	Muncy	Mrs. W. H. Schoch	Miss M. O. Tillson	Miss Lizzie Van Gundy	780	814 78
7	1887	Watsonstown	Mrs. W. H. Schoch	Miss M. O. Tillson	Miss Lizzie Van Gundy	725	704 87
8	1888	Danville	Mrs. W. H. Schoch	Miss Mary Unangst	Miss Lizzie Van Gundy	809	1083 02
9	1889	Hughesville	Mrs. W. H. Schoch	Miss Mary Unangst	Miss Lizzie Van Gundy	842	1046 03
10	1890	Northumberland	Mrs. W. H. Schoch	Miss Mary Unangst	Miss Lizzie Van Gundy	871	949 82
11	1891	Hazleton	Mrs. G. P. Frymire	Mrs. Grant Herring	Mrs. J. L. Miller	908	1239 70
12	1892	Lewisburg	Mrs. G. P. Frymire	Mrs. Grant Herring	Mrs. J. L. Miller	992	1218 44
13	1893	Shamokin	Mrs. F. J. Schoch	Mrs. S. D. Townsend	Mrs. J. L. Miller	971	1900 20
14	1894	Montoursville	Mrs. F. J. Schoch	Mrs. S. D. Townsend	Mrs. J. L. Miller	1009	1486 27
15	1895	Jersey Shore	Mrs. J. R. Dimm	Miss Annie Van Gundy	Mrs. J. L. Miller	1164	1579 09
16	1896	Milton	Mrs. J. R. Dimm	Miss Annie Van Gundy	Mrs. A. N. Warner	1198	1428 10
17	1897	Bloomsburg	Mrs. J. R. Dimm	Miss Annie Van Gundy	Mrs. A. N. Warner	1196	1559 03
18	1898	Hughesville	Mrs. J. R. Dimm	Miss Annie Van Gundy	Mrs. A. N. Warner	1249	1653 68
19	1899	Danville	Mrs. J. R. Dimm	Miss Ida Herring	Mrs. A. N. Warner	1149	1497 42
20	1900	Sunbury	Mrs. J. R. Dimm	Miss Ida Herring	Mrs. A. N. Warner	1348	1575 32
21	1901	Selinsgrove	Mrs. J. R. Dimm	Miss Ida Herring	Mrs. A. N. Warner	1183	1532 47
22	1902	Watsonstown	Mrs. M. L. Shindel	Miss Ida Herring	Mrs. A. N. Warner	1190	1719 28
23	1903	Williamsport	Mrs. M. L. Shindel	Mrs. S. D. Townsend	Miss Martha Dimm	1436	2010 78
24	1904	Lewisburg	Mrs. M. L. Shindel	Mrs. S. D. Townsend	Miss Martha Dimm	1651	2170 25
25	1905	Northumberland	Mrs. M. L. Shindel	Mrs. S. D. Townsend	Miss Martha Dimm	1627	3224 31
26	1906	Hazleton	Mrs. R. G. Bannen	Mrs. S. D. Townsend	Miss Ida Herring	1636	2363 95



Rev. S. P. Hughes



Prof. Henry Ziegler, D. D.



Rev. Prof. C. J. Ehrehart



Rev. G. B. Ely

CONVENTIONS AND OFFICERS—Continued

Number.	Year.	Place.	President.	Secretary.	Treasurer.	Members.	Total Money.
27	1907	Montoursville	Mrs. R. G. Bannen ..	Mrs. S. D. Townsend...	Miss Ida Herring.....	1641	2249 92
28	1908	Shamokin	Mrs. R. G. Bannen ..	Mrs. F. W. Meyer.....	Miss Ida Herring.....	1879	2541 28
29	1909	Milton	Mrs. J. Wagner.....	Mrs. V. S. McMahan...	Miss Ida Herring.....	2428	†3471 85
30	1910	South Williamsport	Mrs. J. Wagner.....	Mrs. V. S. McMahan...	Miss Ida Herring.....	2354	3223 75
31	1911	Muncy	Mrs. J. Wagner.....	Mrs. V. S. McMahan...	Miss Ida Herring.....	2284	3958 82
32	1912	Bloomisburg	Mrs. J. F. Seebach....	Mrs. V. S. McMahan...	Miss Ida Herring.....	2385	4297 93
33	1913	Sunbury	Mrs. J. F. Seebach....	Mrs. V. S. McMahan...	Miss Ida Herring.....	2080	3826 04
34	1914	Hughesville	Mrs. H. C. Michael....	Mrs. V. S. McMahan...	Miss Ida Herring.....	2260	4244 45
35	1915	Danville	Mrs. H. C. Michael....	Mrs. V. S. McMahan...	Miss Ida Herring.....	2552	4377 89
36	1916	Montgomery	Mrs. H. C. Michael....	Mrs. V. S. McMahan...	Miss Ida Herring.....	2565	5195 47

*Jubilee Year.

†Special Nurses Fund \$930.45.



Rev. J. P. Neff, M. D.

FEDERATION OF THE MEN'S ORGANIZATIONS OF THE SYNOD

In connection with the meeting of the Synod in south Williamsport in 1912, a convention was held in St. Paul's, Williamsport, at which the mens' organization in various churches in the Synod formed a Federation.

Each year since, the Federation has met in connection with the Synod, and has published its minutes with those of the Synod. The meetings have been characterized by informing discussions, while an outstanding feature has been a banquet on the first evening. The attendance, especially at the evening meeting has been large. The Presidents have been Benjamin Apple of Sunbury 1912-1916, and Dan Smith of Williamsport 1916-



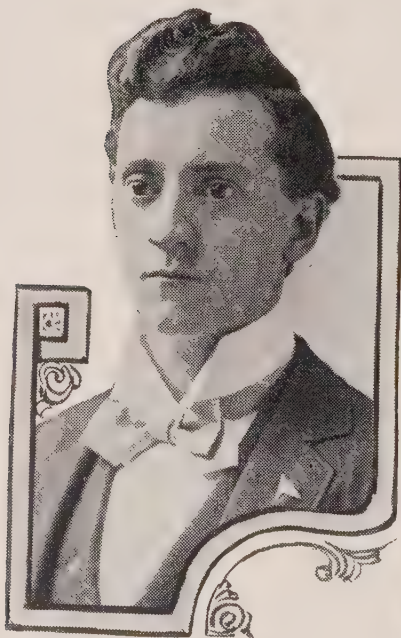
Rev. B. A. Peters



Rev. R. G. Barmen, D. D.



Rev. S. E. Bateman, M. D., Sc. D



Rev. Chas. R. Streamer



Rev. J. T. Gladhill

FIFTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

Montoursville, Pa., May 8-11, 1917

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

I. REGULAR ORDER.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Opening Prayer | 6. Report of Standing Committees |
| 2. Calling of Roll | 7. Report of Special Committes |
| 3. Reading of Minutes | 8. New Business |
| 4. Special Order | 9. Adjournment |
| 5. Unfinished Business | |

II. SPECIAL ORDER.

First Day—Tuesday, May 8th

Evening Session 7.30

Vesper Services - - Pastor Loci and Officers of Synod
Synodical Sermon Rev. F. P. Manhart, D.D., President of Synod
Holy Communion

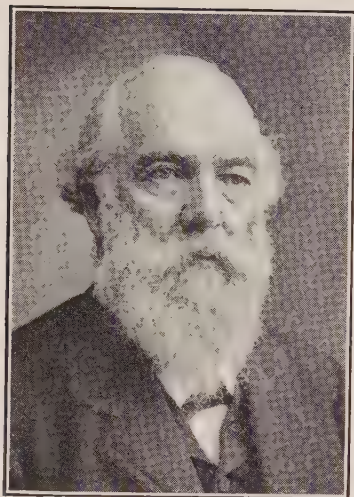
Second Day—Wednesday, May 9th

Morning Session 9.00

Half Hour with the Bible - - J. H. Barb D. D.
Opening of Synod
Reception of Delegates and Commissioners
President's Annual Report
Election of Officers
Reception of Minutes and other Documents

Afternoon Session 2.00

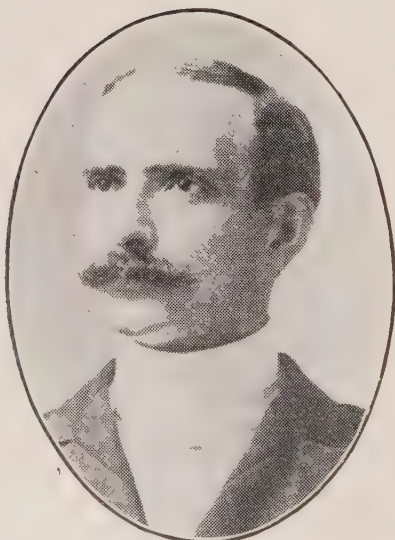
Appointment of Committees
Report of Statistical Secretary



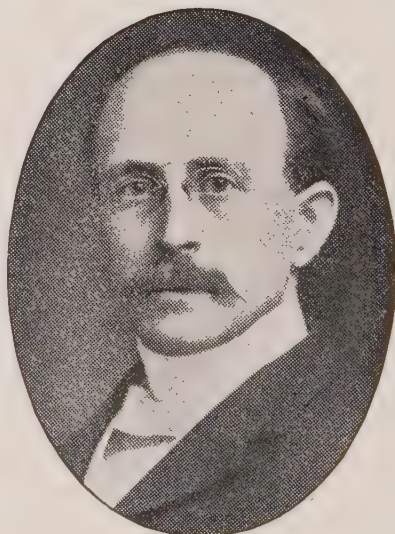
Rev. H. A. Dietterich



Rev. F. M. Traub



Rev. M. M. Albeck



Rev. S. Bottiger



Rev. J. A. Adams

Afternoon Session 2.00

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools

Address on Sunday Schools - - C. R. Botsford

Report of Committee on Constitution and By-Laws

Report of Committee on Resolutions

Evening Session 7.30

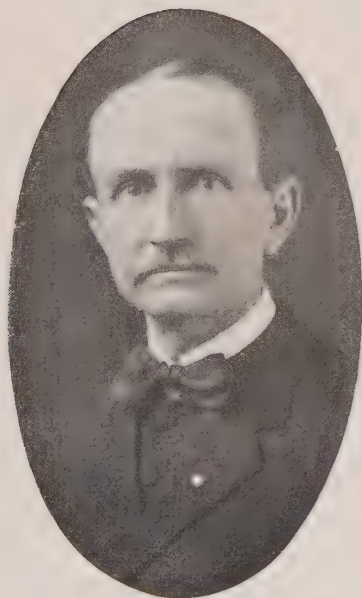
Vesper Services

Rev. Charles Leonard, D. D., and Rev. S. F. Tholan

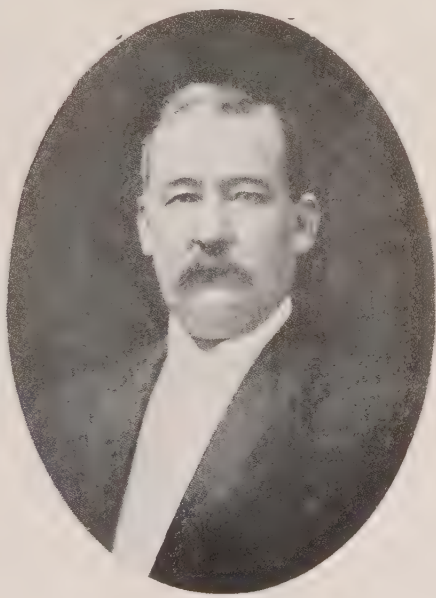
Ordination Sermon - - - Rev. John Wagner, D. D.

Ordination of Candidates for the Gospel Ministry

Adjournment



Rev. J. A. Hartman



Rev. E. B. Killinger



Rev. John D. Wagner, D.D.

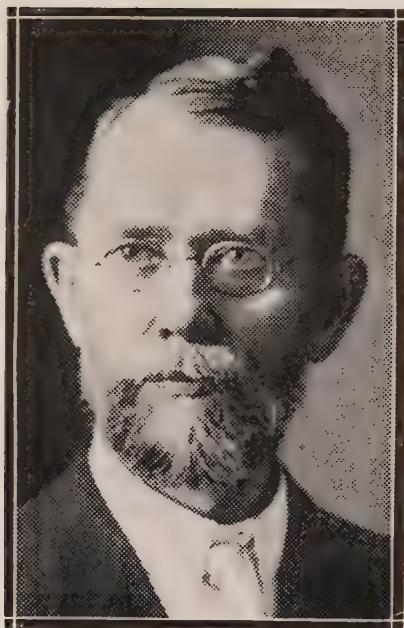
ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PASTORS

Adams, J. A.	Elysburg	1868-1883
	Follmer	1883-1888
	Mt. Carmel	1867-1876
Albeck, M. M.	Millville	1897-1899
	Berwick	1899-1903
Anspach, J. G.	Milton	1836-1837
	Lewisburg	1831-1844
Anspach, J. M., D.D.	Williamsport, St. Paul's	1892-1904
Alleman, B. F., D.D.	Bloomsburg	1867-1872
Alleman, M. J., D.D.	Sunbury	1849-1851
	Northumberland,	1848-1852
	Bloomsburg	1845-1846
	Danville	1846-1848
	Lewisburg	1849-1852
	Follmer	1851-1852
Arnold, C. E.	West Berwick	1912-1917
Aughey, A. H.	Muncy	1869-1872
Aurand, C. M., D.D.	Berwick	1893-1898
Babb, A.	Folmers	186 -1862
Baker, A. W.	Scranton	1912-date
Bannen, R. G., D.D.	S. Williamsport	1891-date
Barb, J. H., D.D.	Selinsgrove	1896-1899
	Hughesville	1899-1912
	Vilas	1912-
Barnitz, F. A.	Lairdsville	1860-1862
	Mt. Carmel	1862-1867
Bateman, S. E., M.D.	Plum Creek	1889-1890
	Wil'msport, St. Matthews	1895-1899
Battersby, G. S.	Lairdsville	1883-1884
	Oriole	1872-1875
Becker, D. R.	Mt. Carmel	1892-1899
Beckner, D.	Catawissa	1867-1869
Bell, A.	Williamsport, St. John's	1887-1890



Rev. J. S. Griffith, D.D.

Belmer, H. B.	Selinsgrove	1874-1881
Benson, C. C.	Plum Creek	1891-1893
	Williamsport, St. John's ..	1893-1897
Bergeman, P. E.	Wilkes-Barre, First Ger-	
	man English	1900-1902
Bergner, J. B.	Follmer	1873-1876
Bergenstresser, F. L.	Montgomery	1913-date
Berry, E. E.	Plum Creek	1870-1872
	Northumberland	1872-1876
Bikle, C. G.	Williamsport, St. Paul ..	1904-1917
Billheimer, T. C., D.D. ...	Watsonstown	1866-1869
Bittle, D. H.	Selinsgrove	1853-1854
Bodine, J. V.	Millville	1881-1883
	Briar Creek	1883-1885
Born, P., D.D.	Sunbury	1851-1859
	Shamokin Dam	1882-1884
Botsford, C. R.	Northumberland	1898-1906
Bowers, C. R.	Berwick	1906-1915
	Sunbury	1917-
Bottiger, C. S.	Berwick	1916-date
Boyer, S. R.	Follmer,	1846-1851
Bricker, J. K.	Elysburg	1884-1887
Bright, J. A.	Jersey Shore	1878-1882
Brosius, C. H.	Sunbury, Grace	1898-1907
Brubaker, Jno., D.D.	Avis	1908-1909
Burkhalter, J. C.	Lewisburg	1869-1875
Burnman, A.	Milton	1871-1873
Byers, J. E.	Bloomsburg	1903-1917
Burnite, J. C.	Danville	1916-
Chamberlin, E. A.	Buck Horn	1911-1917
Cooper, A. E.	White Deer Valley	1900-1905
	Jersey Shore	1911-date
Cressman, M. S., D.D.	Muncy	1885-1888
Criley, W. W.	Lewisburg	1875-1882
Crist, I. B.	Turbotville	1890-1894
	Muncy Creek	1897-1903
Cross, J. M.	Berwick	1904-1905



Rev. C. Huber, D.D.



Rev. W. H. Hibbish



Rev. C. Fickinger



Rev. J. C. Fasold

Culler, C. C.	Milton	1854-1860
	Follmer	1858-1860
Curtis, S.	Catawissa	1870-1872
Dale, J. E.	Williamsport, Redeemer	1915-date
Day, C. H.	Muncy Creek	1909-1911
Derr, W. H.	Immanuel	1908-1910
Diener, J. F.	Catawissa	1879-1882
Deitterich, E. E.	Clinton Twp., St. John	1916-date
Dietterich, H. A.	White Deer Valley	1881-1887
	Briar Creek	1880-1881
Dillenbeck, A. L.	Mt. Carmel	1914-date
Dimm, J. R., D.D., LL.D.	Bloomsburg	1859-1867
	Catawissa	1864-1866
	Shamokin Dam	1884-1915
Dise, B. S.	Avis	1905-1908
Domer, S., D.D.	Selinsgrove	1855-1866
	Shamokin	1873-1874
Dunlap, W. C., D.D.	Montoursville	1901-1911
Earhart, M. J.	Lairdsville	1863-
Easterday, G. H.	Millville	1904-1905
Ehrhart, C. J.	Shamokin	1853-1857
	Mt. Carmel	1855-1856
	Elysburg	Supply
Eichholtz, G.	Lairdsville	1862-1872
	Muncy Creek	1872-1878
Engle, F.	Follmers, Milton, Muncy Creek	1813
English, J. S.	Watsontown	1904-1905
Ely, G. B.	Turbotville	1915-date
Erhart, A. B.	Muncy Creek	1887-1888
Espich, C.	Sunbury	
Evans, J.	Lewisburg	1866-1869
Eyer, W. J.	Catawissa	1837-1875
Eyra, ———.	Milton	
Faber, G. E.	Follmer	1889-1894
Fahs, W. H.	Milton, Christ	1894-1896

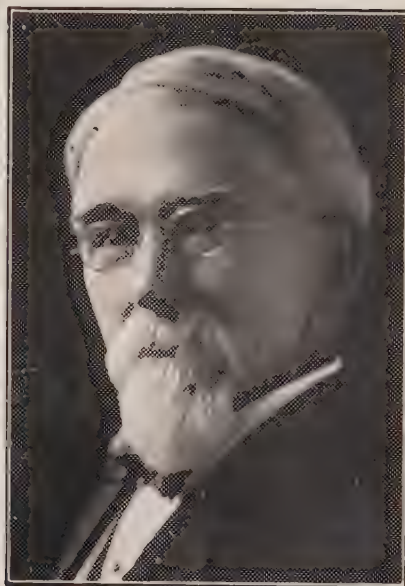


Rev. J. A. Wirt, D. D.

Fasold, J. C.	Muncy Creek	1904-1906
Fasold, P. B.	Buck Horn	1895-1900
Felker, A. C.	Plum Creek	1887-1888
	Muncy Creek	1888-1889
Fetterolf, R. F.	White Deer Valley	1892-1895
Fickinger, C.	Jersey Shore	1900-1911
Fink, R. A., D.D.	Lewisburg	1856-1865
Fischer, M. H., Ph.D.	Wilkes-Barre, Grace	1905-1909
	Williamsport, St. Luke ..	1910-date
Fischer, W. E., D.D.	Shamokin	1893-date
Fishburn, M. H.	Watsontown	1890-1894
Fitzgerald, W. R.	Wilkes-Barre, Grace	1914-date
Fleck, L. N.	Oriole	1892-1894
Flick, H. H.	Lairdsville	1893-1894
Flickinger, J. A.	Oriole	1878-1881
	Shamokin	1881-1885
	Milton, Christ	1889-1894
Focht, J. B., D.D.	Shamokin Dam	1880-1882
	Selinsgrove	1899-1904
	Berwick (Supply)	1906
Focht, J. R.	Plum Creek	1868-1870
Forscht, A. C.	Plum Creek	1900-1903
Fortney, G. W.	Turbotville	1895-1900
Francis, J. M., D.D.	Sunbury	1908-1916
Freas, W. S., D.D.	Hughesville	1880-1882
Fritch, G. W.	Plum Creek	1904-1906
Frederick, T. J.	Plum Creek	1880-1882
	Oriole	1884-1888
Fry,	Buck Horn	
Fultz, H. C.	Wilkes-Barre, First Ger-	
	man English	1905-1910
Garman, W.	Milton, Trinity	1826-1830
	Muncy Creek	1829-1832
Garnes, S. A.	St. John, Clinton Twp. ..	1910-1915
Gearhart, E. M.	Sunbury, Trinity	1906-1912
	Montoursville	1912-1916
Gift, F. U.	Scranton	1895-1899
	Williamsport, St. Mathews	1899-1904
Gilbert, F.	Plum Creek	1909-1912
Gladhill, T. J.	Jersey Shore	1891-1898



Rev. I. H. McGann, D. D.



Rev. John A. Bright



Rev. M. Hadwin Fischer, Ph.D.



Rev. I. P. Zimmerman

Glanding, W. M. B.	Scranton	1902-1903
Glaze, A. R.	Espy	1889-1892
	White Deer Valley	1896-1899
Goetz.	Elysburg	
Goetz, L.	Williamsport, St. Matthew	1891-1895
Good, M. F.	Williamsport, St. Matthew	1913-date
Graves, U.	Milton, Trinity	1868-1870
	Danville	1870-1874
Griffith, J. G.	Montoursville	1868-1873
	Oriole	1882
	Williamsport, Redeemer	1899-1903
Grossman, M.	Lairdsville	1895-1897
Guiney, J. B.	Immanuel	1911-1915
Hackenberg, J. H.	Muncy	1875-1877
Hall, P.	Catawissa	
Haithcox, H. C., D.D. ...	Muncy	1872-1875
	Shamokin	1875-1877
Harding, W. H.	Williamsport, St. John	1897-1899
Harmon, H. E.	Espy	1901-1902
	West Berwick	1902-1912
Harsh, G. E.	Plum Creek	1883-1885
Hartman, J. A.	Sunbury, Grace	1907-date
Hassinger, J. E. F.	Seybertsville	1884-1889
Haus, L. R.	Muncy Creek	1907-1908
Havice, M. H.	Muncy Creek	1889-1891
	Milton, Christ	1897-1904
	Montgomery	1904-1913
Heilman, P. A., D.D.	Bloomsburg	1890-1896
Heim, Geo.	Lewisburg	1808-1828
Hemperly, G. W.	Sunbury, Zion	1867-1876
Henderson, J. W.	Mt. Carmel	1891-1893
Henkle, D. M., D.D.	Catawissa	1882-1883
Herbst, J.	Sunbury, Zion's, Selins- grove, Lewisburg	1802
Hibbush, W. H.	Lairdsville	1892-1893
	Buck Horn	1900-1902
	Sunbury, Trinity	1914-date
Hillpot, J.	Blooming Grove	1871-



Rev. E. J. Wolf, D. D., LL. D.

Hoffman, J. L.	Scranton	1903-1912
Hooper, P. S.	Shamokin	1877-1881
Horne, A. R., D.D.	Follmer	1863-1865
	Williamsport	1867-1871
Houseman, J. H.	Lairdsville	1897-1901
Huber, C., D.D.	Follmer	1876-1882
Huber, E., D.D.	Danville	1860-1861
Hughes, S. P.	Williamsport, St. Paul ..	1881-1891
	Williamsport, St. Luke ..	1900-1901
Hutchison, J. W.	Lairdsville	1885-1887
Ilgen, Wm.	Lewisburg	1803-1807
Irvine, I.	Williamsport, St. John ..	1890-1893
Kautz, B. F.	Vilas	1908-1912
	Lairdsville	1912-date
Keller, J. B.	Shamokin	1866-1870
	Watson town	1870-1871
Kelly, Wm.	Espy	1876-1877
	Buck Horn	1876-1878
Kern, F.	Wilkes-Barre, First Ger-	
	man English	1903-1905
Kemp, M. S.	Watson town	1913-date
Kessler, P.	Bloomsburg	1819-1828
	Catawissa	1819-1828
Killinger, E. B.	Northumberland	1876-1885
	Shamokin Dam	1874-1881
Kingsley, R. F.	Catawissa	1872-1873
Kline, L. H. W.	Espy	1903-1906
Knittle, J. F.	Williamsport, Redeemer ..	1903-1911
Koser, J. A.	Northumberland	1885-1888
	Muncy	1888-1895
Kreamer, J. P. F.	Follmer	
Krout, J. D.	Wilkes-Barre, Grace	1909-1913
Kump, W. A.	Mt. Carmel	1906-1914
Lahr, W. B.	Williamsport, St. Luke ..	1899-1900
Lake, J. W., D.D.	Montgomery	1899-1904
Lane, P. P.	Danville	1861-1863
Lantz, C. A.	Plum Creek	1916-date



Rev. W. F. Steck



Rev. F. L. Bergstrosset, D.D.



Rev. Charles Leonard, D.D.



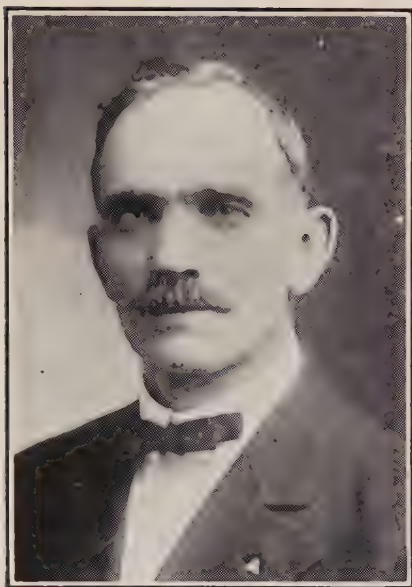
Rev. J. M. Francis, D.D.

Lau, D. B., D.D.	Muncy Creek	1892-1893
	Liberty	1895-1900
Lehman.	Elysburg	
	Muncy Creek	1781-1795
Leisenring, E. H., D.D. ...	Catawissa	1875-1878
	Muncy	1878-1884
	Lewisburg	1884-1890
Lentz, A. W.	White Deer Valley	1879-1881
	Jersey Shore	1876-1878
Leonard, C., D.D.	Selinsgrove	1912-1917
Lohr, L. L., D.D.	Williamsport, St. Johns ..	1900-1907
Mack, P. S.	Watsonstown	1871-1874
Manhart, F. P., D.D.	Bloomsburg	1881-1889
	Millville	1906-1907
		1908-1916
	Shamokin Dam	1916-date
Manifold, J. H. C.	Oriole	1895-1899
	Espy	1899-1901
	Turbotville	1901-1913
Marclay, O. D. S.	Mt. Carmel	1877-1878
	Bloomsburg	1878-1881
McCron, J., D.D.	Bloomsburg	1875-1877
McCutcheon, W. R.	Seybertsville	1881-1882
McGann, I. H., D.D.	Oriole	1888-1892
	Lewisburg	1894-1907
McLain, D. E.	Liberty	1901-1909
McLinn, M. E.	Bloomsburg	1896-1903
Meyer, F. W.	Williamsport, St. Matthew	1904-1908
Michael, H. C.	Northumberland	1906-1916
Miller, A. B.	Liberty ...	1873-1890 and 1912-1914
Miller, Charles,	Follmer	1831-1835
Miller, G. P.	Milton, Trinity	1831-1835
Miller, W., D.D. ...	Wilkes-Barre, Grace ...	1898-1904
Minemeir, J. J.	Espy	1897-1899
Mountz, S. M.	Lairdsville	1889-1891
	Montgomery	1891-1895
Mullen, A. O.	Watsonstown	1894-1904
Musselman, J. H.	Danville	1909-1916



Rev. W. E. Fischer, D. D.

Myers, U., D.D.	Muncy Creek .....1869-1871
	Follmer .....1871-1872
	Turbotsville .....1871-1879
	Catawissa .....1883-date
Neff, I. P., M.D.	Liberty .....1868-1873
	Montoursville .....1873-1879
Orwig, S. P.	Watson town .....1873-1878
	Montgomery .....1890-1891
Parson, G., D.D.	Muncy Creek .....1844-1865
	Hughesville .....1850-1865
	Milton .....1865-1868
	Williamsport, St. Paul ..1875-1876
	Sunbury, Zion .....1877-1884
Plitt, Frederick.	Follmer, Catawissa
Raver, C. W.	Seybertsville
Reese, J. W.	Lairdsville .....1875-1877
Reeser, T. F.	Williamsport, St. Paul ..1877-1881
Reichardt, C. J. A.	Wilkes-Barre, First Ger- man English .....1911-date
Reimensnyder, J. J.	Milton .....1851-1854
Reimensnyder, J. M., D.D. .	Espy .....1872-1875
	Milton, Trinity .....1887-date
Repass, J.	Muncy Creek .....1816-1823
	Follmer .....1817-1820
	Milton .....1811-
Reynolds, H. O.	Espy .....1906-1908
	Williamsport, Redeemer ..1912-1915
Rhodes, G. M.	Danville .....1866-1870
Rhodes, M., D.D., LL.D. .	Sunbury, Zion's .....1862-1867
Rice, J. M.	Buck Horn .....1867-1870
	Espy .....1867-1870
Rizer, P.	Sunbury, Zion's .....1859-1861
Rose, H. C.	Lewisburg .....1913-date
Rudisill, A. J.	Mt. Carmel .....1899-1906
Rupley, D. E.	Espy .....1894-1896
	Montgomery .....1897-1899



H. E. Harman



Rev. C. E. Arnold



Rev. W. J. Wagner



Rev. A. R. Glaze

Rutherford, W. L.	Montoursville	1895-1900
Ruthrauff, F.	Milton	1845-1850
	Lewisburg	1846-1849
Sassaman, I. S.	Northumberland	1916-
Sahm, M. O. T.	Espy	1887-1890
	Buck Horn	1886-1888
Sample, J. R.	Muncy Creek	1882-1887
	Montoursville	1887-1893
Schmucker, M. L.	Turbotville	1887-1889
Schoch, W. H.	Jersey Shore	1882-1891
Schrader, F. H.	Lairdsville	1906-1909
	Oriole	1911-1913
Sechrist, C. W.	Mt. Carmel	1879-1881
	Buck Horn	1892-1894
	Espy	1892-1895
Seebach, J. F.	Lewisburg	1907-1912
Shadow, M. V.	Espy	1878-1880
	Seybertsville	1880-1881
	Mt. Carmel	1881-1884
Shaffer, J. W.	Plum Creek	1898-1900
Shannon, J. W., D.D.	Elysburg	1887-1917
Shannon, S. G.	Watsonstown	1882-1885
	Sunbury, Zion's,	1885-1889
Sharretts, E. A., D.D.	Bloomsburg	1854-1859
	Buck Horn	1859-1860
	Danville	1863-1866
	Muncy	1866-1868
	Hughesville	1866-1869
	Espy	1878-1886
	Briar Creek	
Shertz, A. H.	Plum Creek	1860-1867
	Liberty	1890-1891
Shellhard, H. J.	Follmer	
Shimer, H. D.	Watsonstown	1905-1912
Shindel, J. C.	Mt. Carmel	1884-1891
Shindel, M. L., D.D.	Selinsgrove	1867-1874
	Shamokin Dam	1872-1874
	Danville	1874-1896



Rev. J. H. Barb, D.D.

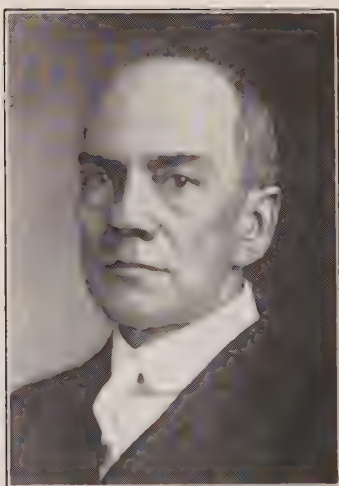
Shindel, Jeremiah	Bloomsburg	1830-1837
	Catawissa	
Shindel, J. P.	Sunbury	1812-1851
	Elysburg	1812-1850
	Selinsgrove	1820-1846
Shoffner, J. R.	Lewisburg	1883-1884
Sikes, J. R.	Mt. Carmel	1867-1867
Sill, George	Follmer	1869-1870
	Turbotville	1869-1871
Smithdeal, J. L.	Montoursville	1867-1868
Snyder, G. F.	Williamsport, Redeemer	1894-1899
Sprecher, S. P.	Milton	1863-1865
Staever, C. F.	Muncy Creek	1836-1839
	Follmer	1836-1845
	Milton	1837-1842
Staley, F. W.	Watsonstown	1885-1890
Stauffer, L. G.	Plum Creek	1906-1908
	Sunbury, Trinity	1912-1914
Steck, C. T., D.D.	Shamokin	1889-1893
Steck, J. M., D.D.	Jersey Shore	1870-1875
	South Williamsport	1883-1887
	Williamsport, St. John	1883-1887
	Williamsport, Redeemer	1891-1894
	Follmer	1894-1904
Steck, W. F.	Muncy	1895-date
Stock, Carl	Milton, Follmer, Elysburg, Catawissa	
	Muncy Creek	1801-1812
Stover, J. M.	Plum Creek	1912-1915
Stover, M. J.	Danville	1856-1860
Strail, G. D.	Buck Horn	1906-1910
Streamer, C. R.	Liberty	1914-date
Studebaker, E.	Liberty	1861-
Stroup, G. W.	White Deer Valley	1887-1891
Sunday, O. E.	Espy	1909-1916
	Montoursville	1916-date
Swartz, E.	Milton	1842-1844
Swartz, J., D.D.	Williamsport, St. Paul	1873-1875
Taylor, S. J., D.D.	Selinsgrove	1905-1911
Tholan, S. F.	White Deer Valley	1910-date



Rev. M. L. Heisler



Rev. J. V. Bodine



Rev. E. E. Dietterich



Rev. J. C. Koser

Thrall, W. G.	South Williamsport	1887-1891
Titus, T. T.	Milton	1861-1863
Trostle, W. A.	Plum Creek	1894-1897
	Williamsport, St. Luke ..	1897-1899
	Oriole	1899-1907
Twelve, J. C.	Plymouth	1910-1912
Uber, T. B.	Oriole	1909-1911
Unger	Sunbury	
Waage, F.	Milton	1826-1829
	Follmer	
Wagner, H.	Benton	
Wagner, I. H., D.D.	Williamsport, St. Luke ..	1902-1909
Wagner, J., D.D.	Hazleton	1874-date
Wagner, W. J.	Muncy Creek	1894-1896
	Buck Horn	1903-1905
	Follmer	1913-date
Walter, C.	Lewisburg	1807-1808
Walter, C. E., D.D.	Hughesville	1896-1898
Walter, J.,	Selinsgrove	1819-1820
Walter, L. W.	Danville	1906-1909
Wampole, J. F.	Elysburg	1858-1868
	Mt. Carmel	1858-1859
	Shamokin	1858-1865
	Catawissa	1862-1864
Waring, L. H., Ph.D.	Scranton	1899-1902
Warner, A. N., D.D.	Montoursville	1880-1882
	South Williamsport	1882-1883
	Williamsport, St. John ..	1882-1883
	Northumberland	1888-1898
Weaver, A. H.	Liberty	1892-1894
Weaver, Wm.	Bloomsburg	1850-1852
Weber, J. H., D.D.	Sunbury, Zion's	1889-1908
Weeter, J. W., D.D.	Williamsport, St. Matthew	1908-1913
Weiner, D. S.	Liberty	1892-1894
Weiser, Reuben, D.D.	Selinsgrove	1846-1848
Wells, L. D., D.D.	Shamokin	1885-1889
Whitman, H. N.	Lairdsville	1878-1880

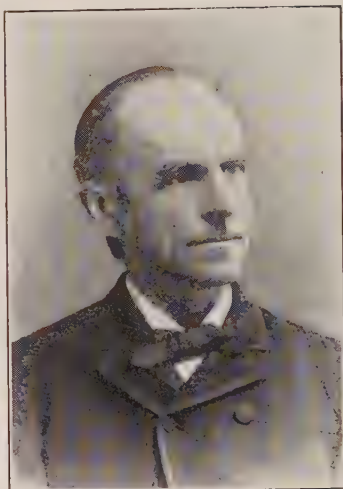


Rev. W. W. Criley, D. D.

Willard, P.	Danville	1850-1856
	Elysburg	1850-1853
Williams, J. T.	Muncy Creek	1839-1843
	Follmer	1856-1858
Williams, J. R.	Shamokin	1870-1873
	Bloomsburg	1873-1875
Williams, R. H.	Hughesville	1912-date
Winecoff, Jesse	Selinsgrove	1848-1852
	Lewisburg	1852-1855
	Follmer	1853-1855
Winton, H. B.	Jersey Shore	1866-1869
Wirt, J. A., D.D.	Hughesville	1883-1895
Witmer, Charles	Bloomsburg	1844-1845
	Catawissa	1844-1845
Wolf, E. J., D.D., LL.D. ..	Follmer	1866-1868
	Turbotville	1866-1869
Yost, T. J.	Montoursville	1894-1895
Yutzy, J. D.D.	Selinsgrove	1882-1896
Zerger, J. E.	Millville	1907-1908
Zimmerman, A. K.	Plum Creek	1872-1879
	Watsontown	1879-1882
Zimmerman, I. P.	Montoursville	1883-1887
	Milton, Christ	1904-1916
Zimmerman, J. E.	Avis	1902-1905
	Follmer	1905-1913



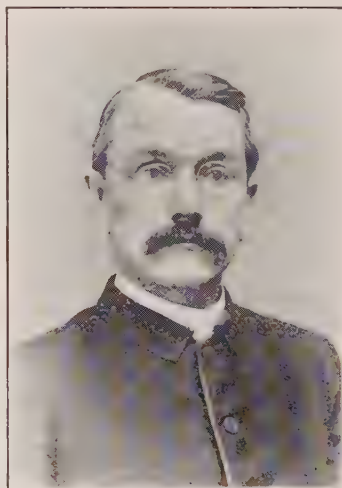
Rev. J. W. Lake, D. D.



Rev. W. H. Schoch



Rev. I. S. Sassaman



Rev. B. F. Kautz

PASTORATES AND THE PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED THEM

Berwick.

Aurand, C. M., D.D.,	1893-1898
Albeck, M. M.,	1899-1903
Crass, J. M.,	1904-1905
Focht, J. B., D.D.	1906
Botsford, C. R.,	1906-1915
Bottiger, C. S.,	1916-

Bloomsburg.

Plitt, Frederick,	
Engle, F.,	1810-1818
Kessler, P.,	1819-1828
Shindel, Jeremiah,	1830-1837
Eyer, W. J.,	1837-1844 & 1846-1850
Witmer, Chas.,	1844-1845
Alleman, M. J.,	1845-1846
Weaver, Wm.,	1850-1852
Sharretts, E. A., D.D.,	1854-1859
Dimm, J. R., D.D., LL.D.,	1859-1867
Alleman, B. F., D.D.,	1867-1872
Williams, J. R.,	1873-1875
McCron, J., D.D.,	1875-1877
Marcley, O. D. S.,	1878-1881
Manhart, F. P., D.D.,	1881-1889
Heilman, P. A., D.D.,	1890-1896
McLinn, M. E.,	1896-1903
Byers, J. E.,	1903-1916
Wolf, N. S.,	1917-

Buck Horn.

Frey, Rev.	
Eyer, W. J.	
Sharretts, E. A.,	1859-1860



Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder, D. D.

Rice, J. M.,	1867-1870
Reimensnyder, J. M.,	1872-1872
Kelly, Wm.,	1876-1878
Sharretts, E. A.,	1878-1886
Sahm, M. O. T.,	1886-1888
Glaze, A. R.,	1889-1892
Sechrist, C. W.,	1892-1894
Fasold, P. B.,	1895-1900
Hilbish, W. H.,	1900-1902
Wagner, W. J.,	1903-1905
Strail, G. D.,	1906-1910
Chamberlin, E. A.,	1911-1917

Catawissa.

Steck, J. C.,	St. John's to 1790 (circ.)
Plitt, Frederick.	
Hall, Peter.	
Kessler, Peter	
Shindel, Jeremiah,	1830-1837
Eyer, W. J.,	1837-1875
Wampole, J. F.,	1862-1864
Dimm, J. R., D.D.,	1864-1866
Beckner, D.,	1867-1869
Curtis, S.,	1870-1872
Kingsley, R. F.,	1872-1873
Leisenring, E. H., D.D.,	1875-1878
Diener, J. F.,	1879-1882
Henkle, D. M., D.D.,	1882-1883
Myers, U., D.D.,	1883-date

Danville.

Swartz, Elias,	1845-
Alleman, M. J.,	1846-1848
Willard, P.,	1850-1856
Stover, M. J.,	1856-1860
Huber, E., D.D.,	1860-1861
Lane, P. P.,	1861-1863
Sharretts, E. A., D.D.,	1863-1866
Rhodes, G. M.,	1866-1870
Graves, U.,	1870-1874



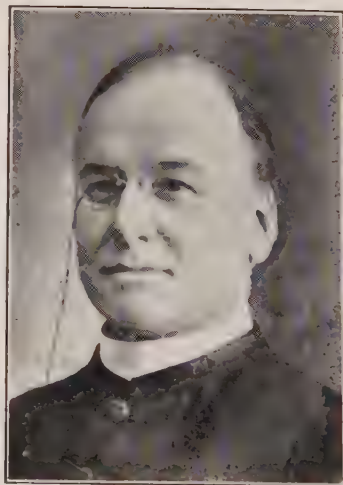
Rev. M. F. Good



Rev. A. W. Lentz



Rev. John Wagner, D. D.



Rev. W. S. Freas, D. D.

Shindel, M. L., D.D.,	1874-1906
Walter, L. W.,	1906-1909
Musselman, J. H.,	1909-1916
Burnite, D. C.,	1916-

Elysburg.

Ulrick,	}	All prior to 1813
Lehman,		
Goetz,		
Stock,		
Shindel, J. P.,		1813-1850
Willard, P.,		1850-1853
Ehrhart, C. J.,		1853-1857
Wampole, J. F.,		1858-1868
Adams, J. A.,		1868-1883
Bricker, J. K.,		1884-1887
Shannon, J. W., D.D.,		1887-1917

Espy-Briar Creek.

Sharretts, E. A., D.D.	
Dimm, J. R., D.D.,	1859-1867
Truckenmiller, D. S.,	1863
Rice, J. M.,	1867
Reimensnyder, J. M., D.D.,	1872-1875
Kelly, Wm.,	1876-1877
Sharretts, E. A., D.D.,	1878-1880
Shadow, M. V.,	1878-1880
Dietterick, H. A.,	1880-1881
Bodine, J. V.,	1883-1885
Sahm, M. O. T.,	1887-1890
Glaze, A. R.,	1889-1892
Sechrist, C. W.,	1892-1895
Rupley, D. E.,	1894-1896
Minemeier, J. J.,	1897-1899
Manifold, J. H. C.,	1899-1901
Harman, H. E.,	1901-1903
Kline, L. H. W.,	1903-1906
Reynolds, H. O.,	1906-1908
Sunday, O. E.,	1909-1916
Miller, H.,	1917-

THE SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD



Rev. I. R. Dimm, D. D., LL. D.

Follmer, or Pottsgrove.

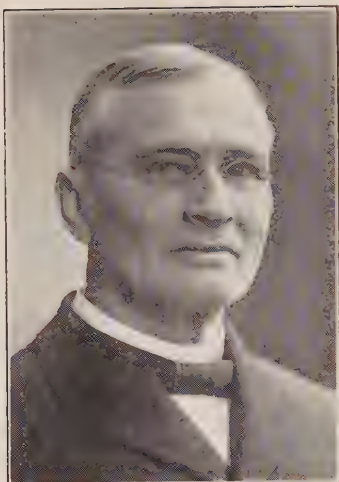
Shellhard, H. J.	
Stock, G. C.	
Kreamer, J. P. F.	
Plitt, Frederick.	
Engle, Frederick,	1811-1817
Repass,	1817-1826
Waage, Fred.	
Garman, William,	1829-1831
Miller, Charles,	1831-1835
Staver, C. F.,	1836-1845
Boyer, S. R.,	1846-1851
Alleman, M. J., D.D.,	1851-1852
Weincoff, Jesse,	1853-1855
Williams, J. T.,	1856-1858
Culler, C. C.,	1858-1860
Babb, A., D.D.,	1860-1862
Horne, A. R., D.D.,	1863-1865
Wolf, E. J., D.D.,	1866-1868
Sill, George	1869-1870
Myers, U., D.D.,	1871-1872
Bergner, J. B.,	1873-1876
Huber, Conrad,	1876-1882
Adams, J. A.,	1883-1888
Faber, G. E.,	1889-1894
Steck, J. M., D.D.,	1894-1904
Zimmerman, J. E.,	1905-1913
Wagner, W. J.,	1913-date

Hasleton.

Wagner, J., D.D.,	1874-date
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Hughesville.

Parson, G., D.D.,	1850-1866
Sharretts, E. A., D.D.,	1866-1869
Aughe, A. H.,	1869-1872
Heisler, M. L.,	1872-1879
Freas, W. S., D.D.,	1880-1882
Wirt, J. A., D.D.,	1883-1895
Walter, C. E., D.D.,	1896-1898



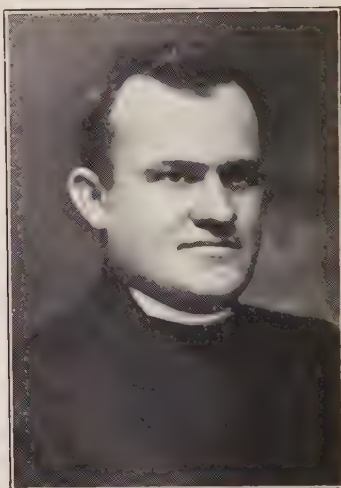
Rev. T. C. Billheimer, D.D.



Rev. J. H. Musselman



Rev. B. F. Alleman, D.D.



Rev. W. R. Fitzgerald

Barb, J. H., D.D.,	1899-1912
Williams, R. H.,	1912-date

Immanuel.

Derr, W. H.,	1908-1910
Guinney, J. B.,	1911-1915
Grenninger, F. R., (Supply),	1915-

Jersey Shore.

Winton, H. B.,	1866-1869
Steck, J. M.,	1870-1875
Lentz, A. W.,	1876-1877
Bright, J. A.,	1878-1882
Schoch, W. H.,	1882-1891
Gladhill, T. J.,	1891-1898
Fasold, J. C.,	1898-1900
Fickinger, C.,	1900-1911
Cooper, A. E.,	1911-date

Lairdszville.

Barnitz, F. A.,	1860-
Earhart, M. J.,	1863-
Eicholtz, G.,	1863-1872
Miller, S. S.,	1874
Reese, J. W.,	1875-1877
Whitman, H. N.,	1878-1880
Batersby, G. S.,	1883-1884
Hutchison, J. W.,	1885-1887
Mountz, S. M.,	1889-1891
Hilbish, W. H.,	1892-1893
Flick, H. H.,	1893-1894
Grossman, M.,	1895-1897
Houseman, J. H.,	1897-1901
Schrader, F. H.,	1906-1909
Kautz, B. F.,	1912-date

Lewisburg.

Herbst, John,	1802-
Ilgen, Wm.,	1803-1807
Walter, Conrad,	1807-1808
Heim, Geo.,	1808-1828



Rev. J. M. Anspach, D. D.

18145

Anspach, J. G.,	1831-1844
Ruthrauff, F.,	1846-1849
Alleman, M. J., D.D.,	1849-1852
Winecoff, Jesse,	1852-1855
Fink, R. A., D.D.,	1856-1865
Evans, J.,	1866-1869
Burkhalter, J. C.,	1869-1875
Criley, W. W., D.D.,	1875-1882
Shoffner, J. R.,	1883-1884
Leisenring, E. H., D.D.,	1884-1890
Seiber, L. L.,	1890-1893
McGann, I. H.,	1894-1907
Seebach, J. F.,	1907-1912
Rose, H. C.,	1913-date

Liberty.

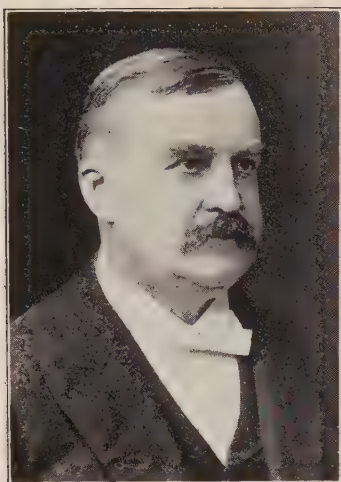
Studebaker, E.,	1861-
Neff, I. P., M.D.,	1868-1873
Miller, A. B.,	1873-1890
Shertz, A. H.,	1890-1891
Weaver, A. H.,	1892-1894
Lau, D. B.,	1895-1900
McLain, D. E.,	1901-1909
Weimer, D. S.,	1910-1911
Miller, A. B.,	1912-1914
Streamer, C. R.,	1914-date

Millville.

Bodine, J. V.,	1881-1883
Albeck, M. M.,	1897-1899
Easterday, G. H.,	1905-1905
Zerger, J. E.,	1907-1908
Manhart, F. P., D.D.,	} 1906-1907 1908-1916
Peters, B. A.,	

Milton, Trinity.

Eyre	} Supplies 1807-1811
Stock,	
Engle,	
Repass, P.,	1811-



Rev. J. Brubaker, D.D.



Rev. M. S. Cressman, D.D.



Rev. H. C. Haithcox, D.D.

Waage, F.,	1826-1829
Garman, W.,	1829-1830
Miller, C. P.,	1831-1833
Anspach, J. G. (Supply),	1836-1837
Steover, C. F.,	1837-1842
Swartz, E.,	1842-1844
Ruthrauff, F.,	1845-1850
Reimensnyder, J. J.,	1851-1854
Culler, C. C.,	1854-1860
Titus, T. T.,	1861-1863
Sprecher, S. P., D.D.,	1863-1865
Parson, George, D.D.,	1865-1868
Graves, U.,	1868-1870
Buhrman, A.,	1871-1873
Gotwald, W. H., D.D., LL.D.,	1873-1887
Reimensnyder, J. M., D.D.,	1887-

Milton, Christ.

Flickinger, J. A.,	1889-1890
Romig, M. S.,	1891-1894
Fahs, W. H.,	1894-1896
Havice, M. H.,	1897-1904
Zimmerman, I. P.,	1904-1917
Richter, J. A.,	1917-

Montgomery.

Orwig, S. P.,	1890-1891
Mountz, S. M.,	1891-1895
Rupley, D. E.,	1897-1899
Lake, J. W., D.D.,	1899-1904
Havice, M. H.,	1904-1913
Bergstresser, F. L., D.D.,	1913-date

Montoursville.

Smithdeal, J. L.,	1867-1868
Griffith, J. G.,	1868-1873
Neff, I. P., M.D.,	1873-1879
Warner, A. N., D.D.,	1880-1882
Zimmerman, I. P.,	1883-1887
Sample, J. R.,	1887-1894
Yost, T. J.,	1894-1895



Rev. A. E. Cooper

Rutherford, W. L.,	1895-1900
Dunlap, W. C., D.D.,	1901-1911
Gearhart, E. M.,	1911-1916
Sunday, O. E.,	1916-

Mount Carmel.

Ehrhart, C. J.,	1855-1856
Wampole, J. F.,	1858-1859
Heisler, W. L.,	1859-1862
Barnitz, F. A.,	1862-1867
Sikes, J. R.,	1867-1867
Adams, J. A.,	1867-1876
Marclay, O. D. S.,	1877-1878
Sechrist, C. W.,	1879-1881
Shadow, M. V.,	1881-1884
Schindel, J. C.,	1884-1891
Henderson, J. W.,	1891-1893
Becker, D. R.,	1892-1899
Rudisill, A. J.,	1899-1906
Kump, W. A.,	1906-1914
Dillenbeck, A. L.,	1914-1917

Muncy.

Sharretts, E. A., D.D.,	1866-1868
Aughey, A. H.,	1869-1872
Haithcox, H. C., D.D.,	1872-1875
Hackenberg, J. H.,	1875-1877
Leisenring, E. H., D.D.,	1878-1884
Cressman, M. S., D.D.,	1885-1888
Koser, J. A.,	1888-1895
Steck, W. F.,	1895-date

Muncy Creek.

Lehman,	1781-1795
Stock, V. G. C.,	1801-1812
Engle, F.,	1813-
Repass, J.,	1816-1823
Garman, Wm.,	1829-1832
Miller, C. P.,	1832-1834
Staver, C. F.,	1836-1839
Williams, Jno. T.,	1839-1843



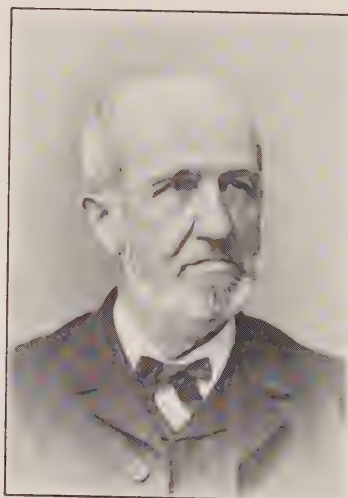
Rev. J. B. Keller



Rev. P. S. Hooper



Rev. A. B. Miller



Rev. J. F. Wampole

Parson, G., D.D.,	1814-1865
Myers, U., D.D.,	1869-1871
Eichholtz, Geo.,	1872-1878
McCutcheon, W. R.,	1878-1881
Sample, J. R.,	1882-1887
Erhart, A. B.,	1887-1888
Felker, A. C.,	1888-1889
Havice, M. H.,	1889-1891
Lau, D. B.,	1892-1893
Wagner, W. J.,	1894-1896
Crist, I. B.,	1897-1903
Fasold, J. C.,	1904-1906
Haus, L. R.,	1907-1908
Day, Chas. H.,	1909-1911
Stonecypher, J. I.,	1915-date

Northumberland.

Shindel, J. P.,	1817-
Weiser, Reuben,	
Alleman, M. J.,	1848-1852
Berry, E. E.,	1872-1876
Killinger, E. B.,	1876-1885
Koser, J. A.,	1885-1888
Warner, A. N., D.D.,	1888-1898
Botsford, C. R.,	1898-1906
Michael, H. C.,	1906-1916
Sassaman, I. S.,	1916-

Oriole.

Battersby, G. S.,	1872-1875
Flickinger, J. A.,	1878-1881
Griffith, J. G.,	1882-1882
Frederick, T. J.,	1884-1888
McGann, I. H., D.D.,	1888-1892
Fleck, L. N.,	1892-1894
Manifold, J. H. C.,	1895-1899
Trostle, W. A.,	1899-1907
Über, T. B.,	1909-1911
Schrader, F. H.,	1911-1913
Meyer, Roy, J.,	1917-



Rev. W. H. Gotwald, D. D., LL. D.

Plum Creek.

Shertz, A. H.,	1862-1867
Focht, J. R.,	1868-1870
Berry, E. E.,	1870-1872
Zimmerman, A. K.,	1872-1879
Frederick, T. J.,	1880-1882
Harsh, G. E.,	1883-1885
Felker, A. C.,	1887-1888
Bateman, S. E., M.D., Se.D.,	1889-1890
Benson, C. C.,	1891-1893
Trostle, W. H.,	1894-1897
Shaffer, J. W.,	1898-1900
Forscht, A. C.,	1900-1903
Fritch, G. W.,	1904-1906
Stauffer, L. G.,	1906-1908
Gilbert, Frank,	1909-1912
Stover, J. M.,	1912-1915
Lantz, C. S.,	1916-date

Scranton.

Gift, F. U.,	1895-1899
Waring, L. H., Ph.D.,	1899-1902
Glanding, W. M. B.,	1902-1903
Hoffman, J. L.,	1903-1912
Baker, A. W.,	1912-date

Selinsgrove.

Herbst, John,	-1802
Walter, Jacob,	-1819
Shindel, J. P.,	1820-1846
Weiser, Reuben,	1846-1848
Winecoff, Jesse,	1848-1852
Bittle, Daniel H.,	1853-1854
Domer, Samuel, D.D.,	1855-1866
Shindel, M. L., D.D.,	1867-1874
Belmer, H. B.,	1874-1881
Yutzy, J., D.D.,	1882-1896
Barb, J. H., D.D.,	1896-1899
Focht, J. B., D.D.,	1899-1904



Rev. Joshua Evans

Taylor, S. J., D.D.,	1905-1911
Leonard, C., D.D.,	1912-1917

Shamokin:

Ehrehart, C. J.,	1853-1857
Wampole, J. F.,	1858-1865
Keller, J. B.,	1866-1870
Williams, J. R.,	1870-1873
Domer, S., D.D.,	1873-1874
Haithcox, H. C., D.D.,	1875-1877
Hooper, P. S.,	1877-1881
Flickinger, J. A.,	1881-1885
Wells, L. D., D.D.,	1885-1889
Steck, C. L., D.D.,	1889-1893
Fischer, W. E., D.D.,	1893-date

Shamokin Dam.

Shindel, M. L., D.D.,	1872-1874
Killinger, E. B.,	1874-1880
Focht, J. B., D.D.,	1880-1882
Born, P., D.D.,	1882-1884
Dimm, J. R., D.D.,	1884-1915
Manhart, F. P., D.D.,	1916-date

South Williamsport.

Warner, A. N., D.D.,	1882-1883
Steck, J. M., D.D.,	1883-1887
Thrall, W. G.,	1887-1891
Bannen, R. G., D.D.,	1891-date

Sunbury, Grace.

Brosius, C. H.,	1898-1907
Hartman, J. A.,	1907-date

Sunbury, Trinity.

Gearhart, E. M.,	1906-1912
Stauffer, L. G.,	1912-1914
Hilbish, W. H., D.D.,	1914-date



Rev. C. Zinsmeister, D.D.



Rev. L. L. Lohr, D.D.



Rev. D. E. Rupley



Rev. P. A. Heilman, D.D.

Sunbury, Zion.

Herbst, John, ..	}	All prior to 1791
Unger,		
Geistweiter,		
Espich, Christian		
Shindel, J. P.,		1812-1851
Alleman, M. J.,		1849-1851
Born, P., D.D.,		1851-1859
Rizer, F.,		1859-1862
Rhodes, M., D.D.,		1862-1867
Hemperly, G. W.,		1867-1876
Parson, G., D.D.,		1877-1884
Shannon, S. G.,		1885-1889
Weber, J. H., D.D.,		1889-1908
Francis, J. M., D.D.,		1908-1916
Bowers, C. R.,		1917-

Turbotville.

Wolf, E. J., D.D.,	-1869
Sill, G.,	1869-1871
Myers, U., D.D.,	1871-1879
McCool, W.,	1880-1883
Schmucker, M. L.,	1885-1889
Crist, I. B.,	1890-1894
Fortney, G. W.,	1895-1900
Manifold, J. H. C.,	1901-1913
Ely, G. B.,	1915-date

Watsonstown.

Bilheimer, T. C., D.D.,	1866-1869
Keller, J. B.,	1869-1871
Mack, P. S.,	1871-1874
Oswig, S. P.,	1873-1878
Zimmerman, A. K.,	1879-1882
Shannon, S. G.,	1882-1885
Staley, F. W.,	1885-1890
Fishburn, M. H.,	1890-1894
Mullen, A. O.,	1894-1904
English, J. S.,	1904-1905
Shimer, H. D.,	1905-1912
Kemp, M. S., Litt.D.,	1913-date



Rev. M. L. Shindel, D. D.

West Berwick.

Harmon, H. E.,	1902-1912
Arnold, C. E.,	1912-1917

White Deer Valley.

Lentz, A. W.,	1879-1881
Dietterich, H. A.,	1881-1887
Stroup, G. W.,	1887-1891
Fetterolf, R. F.,	1892-1895
Glaze, R.,	1896-1899
Cooper, A. E.,	1900-1905
Richter, J. A.,	1906-1910
Tholan, S. F.,	..1910-date

Wilkes-Barre, Grace.

Zinsmeister, C.,	1894-1898
Miller, W., D.D.,	1898-1904
Fischer, M. H., Ph.D.,	1905-1909
Krout, J. D.,	1909-1913
Fitzgerald, W. R.,	1914-date

Wilkes-Barre, First German English.

Zinsmeister, C.,	1898-1900
Bergeman, P. E.,	1900-1902
Kern, F.,	1903-1905
Fultz, H. C.,	1905-1910
Reichart, C. J. A.,	1911-date

Williamsport, Redeemer.

Steck, J. M., D.D.,	1891-1894
Snyder, G. F.,	1894-1899
Griffith, J. G.,	1899-1903
Knittle, J. F.,	1903-1911
Reynolds, H. O.,	1912-1915
Dale, J. E.,	1915-date

Williamsport, St. John's.

Warner, A. N., D.D.,	1882-1883
Steck, J. M., D.D.,	1883-1887
Bell, A.,	1887-1890
Irvine, I.,	1890-1893



Rev. I. C. Burke, D.D.

Benson, C. C.,	1893-1897
Harding, W. H.,	1897-1899
Lohr, L. L., D.D.,	1900-1907
Rentz, W. F.,	1908-date

Williamsport, St. Luke's.

Trostle, W. A.,	1897-1899
Lahr, W. B.,	1899-1900
Hughes, S. P.,	1900-1901
Wagner, I. H., D.D.,	1902-1909
Fischer, M. H., Ph.D.,	1910-date

Williamsport, St. Matthew's.

Goetz, L.,	1891-1895
Bateman, S. E., M.D., Se.D.,	1895-1899
Gift, F. U.,	1899-1904
Meyer, F. W.,	1904-1908
Weeter, J. W., D.D.,	1908-1913
Good, M. F.,	1913-date

Williamsport, St. Paul's.

Swartz, J., D.D.,	1873-1875
Parson, Geo., D.D.,	1875-1876
Reeser, T. F.,	1877-1881
Hughes, S. P.,	1881-1891
Anspach, J. M., D.D.,	1892-1904
Bikle, C. G.,	1904-1917

SUPPLEMENTARY

Williamsport, St. Mark.

Horne, A. R., D.D.,	1867-1872
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Benton.

Wagner, H.,	1874-
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Plymouth.

Twele, J. C.,	1910-1912
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St. Johns, Clinton Twp., Lycoming Co.

Garnes, S. A.,	1910-1915
Dietterich, E. E.,	1916-date



Rev. Foster U. Gift



W. L. Rutherford



Rev. E. M. Gearhart



Rev. W. A. Kump

*Blooming Grove. Cogan Station.
Cogan's Run.*

Hillpot, Joseph, 1868-1871

Seybertsville.

Shadow, M. V., 1880-1881

McCutcheon, W. R., 1881-1882

Hassinger, J. E. F., 1884-1889

Raver, C. W.,

Vilas.

Kautz, B. F., 1908-1912

Barb, J. H., D.D., 1912-date

Arvis.

Zimmerman, J. E., 1902-1905

Dise, B. S., 1905-1908

Brubaker, Jno., D.D., 1908-1909



Rev. Norman S. Wolf

SYNODICAL MEETINGS, OFFICERS AND STATISTICS.

The Susquehanna Synod was organized at Mountoursville, Pa., November 5th 1867, out of the Susquehanna Conference of the East Pennsylvania Synod. Its founders were the Revs. J. J. Evans, G. W. Hemperly, A. W. Lentz, E. A. Sharretts, G. Eicholtz, A. H. Shertz, G. M. Rhodes, E. J. Wolf, J. L. Smithdeal, J. B. Keller, J. B. Shoup, S. Domes, J. M. Rice, B. F. Alleman, A. R. Horne, D. Beckner, J. Hilpot, H. B. Winton, and M. L. Shindel. [Prof. P. Born, Geo. Parson and J. A. Adams, absent but enrolled as members.]

Number.	Year.	Place.	President.	Secretary.	Treasurer.	Communicant Membership.	Benevolence.
1867		Mountoursville (special)	Rev. Joshua Evans.	Rev. Prof. E. J. Wolf, D. D.	H. Engle	.....	.....
1868		Stumbury	Rev. E. A. Sharretts, D. D.	Rev. Prof. E. J. Wolf, D. D.	J. H. Engle	.....	\$550 80
1869		Muncy (special)	Rev. E. A. Sharretts, D. D.	Rev. B. F. Alleman, D. D.	J. H. Engle	.....	.....
1869		Bloomsburg	Rev. Prof. Born, D. D.	Rev. J. B. Keller	J. H. Engle	.....	.....
1870		Northumberland (special)	Rev. Prof. Born, D. D.	Rev. J. B. Keller	J. H. Engle	.....	1067 20
1870		Selinsgrove	Rev. M. L. Shindel, D. D.	Rev. B. F. Alleman, D. D.	J. H. Engle	.....	.....
1870		Williamsport (special)	Rev. M. L. Shindel, D. D.	Rev. B. F. Alleman, D. D.	J. H. Engle	.....	.....
4/1871		Jersey Shore	Rev. B. F. Alleman, D. D.	Rev. D. Graves	J. H. Engle	.....	1534 16
5/1871		Danville	Rev. G. W. Hemperly	Rev. I. C. Burkhalter	J. H. Engle	.....	.....
6/1873		Hughesville	Rev. A. W. Lentz	Rev. I. C. Burkhalter	J. H. Engle	.....	1651 19
7/1874		Williamsport	Rev. J. M. Steck, D. D.	Rev. I. C. Burkhalter	J. H. Engle	.....	2113 15
8/1875		Milton	Rev. I. P. Neff	Rev. M. L. Heisler	J. H. Engle	.....	5744
9/1876		Lewisburg	Rev. W. H. Gotwald, D. D.	Rev. M. L. Heisler	J. H. Engle	.....	1862 43
10/1877		Bloomsburg	Rev. W. H. Gotwald, D. D.	Rev. E. H. Leisenring, D. D.	J. H. Engle	.....	2252 85
11/1878		Hazleton	Rev. W. H. Gotwald, D. D.	Rev. E. H. Leisenring, D. D.	J. H. Engle	.....	6368
12/1879		Shamokin	Rev. W. W. Criley, D. D.	Rev. E. H. Leisenring, D. D.	J. H. Engle	.....	2329 24
13/1880		Muncy	Rev. W. W. Criley, D. D.	Rev. E. H. Leisenring, D. D.	J. H. Engle	.....	6350
14/1881		Northumberland	Rev. J. A. Adams	Rev. J. Wagner, D. D.	P. Born, D. D.	.....	6463
15/1882		Montoursville	Rev. J. A. Adams	Rev. J. Wagner, D. D.	P. Born, D. D.	.....	1691 22
16/1883		Selinsgrove	Rev. E. H. Leisenring, D. D.	Rev. J. Wagner, D. D.	P. Born, D. D.	.....	2188 01
17/1884		Williamsport	Rev. E. H. Leisenring, D. D.	Rev. J. Wagner, D. D.	P. Born, D. D.	.....	3309 67
18/1885		Bloomsburg	Rev. E. H. Leisenring, D. D.	Rev. T. J. Frederiek	P. Born, D. D.	.....	3411 35
19/1886		Hughesville	Rev. J. A. Wirt, D. D.	Rev. T. J. Frederiek	J. C. Hill, Esq.	.....	4070 48
				Rev. A. B. Miller	J. C. Hill, Esq.	.....	7406
					J. C. Hill, Esq.	.....	5933 30
					J. C. Hill, Esq.	.....	5077 11
					J. C. Hill, Esq.	.....	7902
					J. C. Hill, Esq.	.....	6510 82

*Approximate.



Rev. E. A. Chamberlin

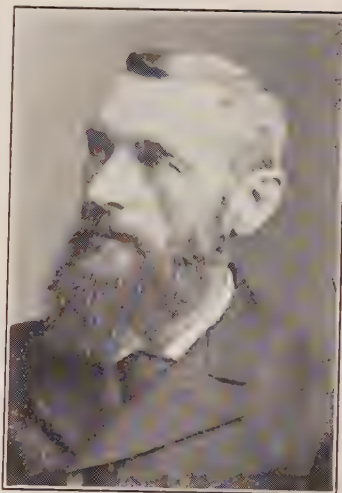
Synodical Meetings, Officers and Statistics—Concluded.

Number.	Place.	President.	Secretary.	Treasurer.	Communion Membership.	Benevolence.
30 1887	Watson town	Rev. J. A. Wirt, D. D.	Rev. J. C. Sebindel	J. C. Hill, Esq.	8066	7689 32
21 1888	Lewisburg	Rev. J. A. Wirt, D. D.	Rev. J. C. Sebindel	J. C. Hill, Esq.	8854	8617 05
22 1889	Hazleton	Rev. J. Wagner, D. D.	Rev. J. C. Sebindel	J. C. Hill, Esq.	8860	7407 03
23 1890	Catawissa	Rev. J. Wagner, D. D.	Rev. J. C. Sebindel	J. C. Hill, Esq.	9257	9887 70
24 1891	Burlingame	Rev. J. Wagner, D. D.	Rev. Isaac H. McGann	J. C. Hill, Esq.	9254	7956 41
25 1892	Northumberland	Rev. J. Yutzy, D. D.	Rev. J. C. Sebindel	J. C. Hill, Esq.	9572	7950 41
26 1893	Montgomery	Rev. J. Yutzy, D. D.	Rev. S. M. Mountz	J. C. Hill, Esq.	10325	9256 76
27 1894	Milton	Rev. J. M. Rehnusnyder, D. D.	Rev. A. N. Warner, D. D.	G. W. Deppen	10361	11102 69
28 1895	Sunbury	Rev. J. M. Rehnusnyder, D. D.	Rev. A. N. Warner, D. D.	G. W. Deppen	10695	12335 45
29 1896	Danville	Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D.	Rev. A. N. Warner, D. D.	G. W. Deppen	11159	14081 13
30 1897	Watson town	Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D.	Rev. A. O. Mullen	G. W. Deppen	11568	15749 83
31 1898	Sells Grove	Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D.	Rev. A. O. Mullen	G. W. Deppen	11568	16318 37
32 1899	Shamokin	Rev. U. Myers, D. D.	Rev. A. O. Mullen	G. W. Deppen	11110	15069 15
33 1900	Bloomsburg	Rev. U. Myers, D. D.	Rev. A. O. Mullen	G. W. Deppen	10680	16211 88
34 1901	Williamsport, St. Paul's	Rev. U. Myers, D. D.	Rev. R. G. Bannen, D. D.	G. W. Deppen	11877	17009 81
35 1902	Berwick	Rev. J. M. Anspach, D. D.	Rev. R. G. Bannen, D. D.	G. W. Deppen	12311	18972 39
36 1903	Lewisburg	Rev. J. M. Anspach, D. D.	Rev. R. G. Bannen, D. D.	G. W. Deppen	12637	19943 21
37 1904	Hughesville	Rev. I. H. McGann, D. D.	Rev. L. L. Lohr	G. W. Deppen	12902	18455 62
38 1905	Montgomery	Rev. I. H. McGann, D. D.	Rev. L. L. Lohr	G. W. Deppen	13545	22081 36
39 1906	Hazleton	Rev. I. H. McGann, D. D.	Rev. L. L. Lohr	G. W. Deppen	13486	25087 80
40 1907	Milton	Rev. W. E. Fischer, D. D.	Rev. J. W. Shannon	William Deisroth	13157	25829 60
41 1908	Miner	Rev. W. E. Fischer, D. D.	Rev. J. W. Shannon	William Deisroth	13750	24307 76
42 1909	Williamsport	Rev. W. E. Fischer, D. D.	Rev. J. F. Knittle	William Deisroth	14189	24327 76
43 1910	Watson town	Rev. J. H. Barb, D. D.	Rev. J. F. Knittle	E. C. Morgan	13879	18234 00
44 1911	Northumberland	Rev. J. H. Barb, D. D.	Rev. J. F. Knittle	E. C. Morgan	13905	20450 00
45 1912	South Williamsport	Rev. J. H. Barb, D. D.	Rev. J. Ernest Zimmerman	E. C. Morgan	14162	22983 00
46 1913	Danville	Rev. Frank P. Manhart, D. D.	Rev. M. H. Fischer, Ph. D.	S. C. Morgan	14983	23594 00
47 1914	Jersey Shore	Rev. Frank P. Manhart, D. D.	Rev. M. H. Fischer, Ph. D.	E. C. Morgan	15853	27741 00
48 1915	Sells Grove	Rev. Frank P. Manhart, D. D.	Rev. M. H. Fischer, Ph. D.	E. C. Morgan	15906	28230 00
49 1916	Hughesville	Rev. Frank P. Manhart, D. D.	Rev. M. H. Fischer, Ph. D.	E. C. Morgan	15906	28230 00

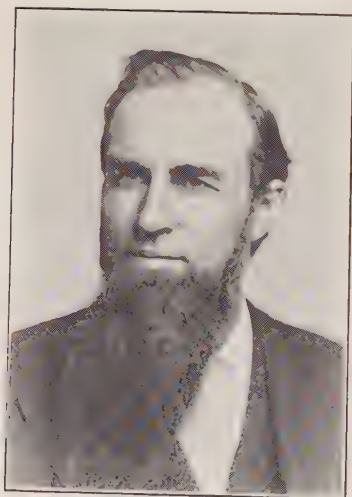
Value of Property, \$1,108,950. Confirmed Membership, 20,232. Total Contributions, \$108,423.



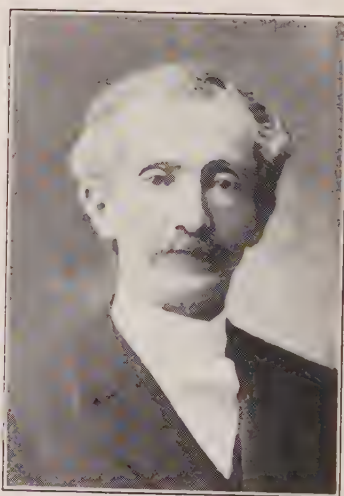
Rev. O. A. Mullen



Rev. H. B. Belmer, D.D.



Rev. S. G. Shannon



Rev. A. N. Warner, D.D.

ORDINATIONS.

Year.	Name.	Place of Convention
1868	J. A. Adams	Sunbury.
"	Joseph Hilpot	Sunbury.
"	I. G. Griffith	Sunbury.
"	B. F. Alleman, D. D.	Sunbury.
"	T. C. Billheimer, D. D.	Sunbury.
"	I. P. Neff, M. D.	Sunbury.
1869	U. Myers, D. D.	Bloomsburg.
1870	A. Wiren, (sent to Sweden)	Scelinsgrove.
1871	E. S. Reese	Jersey Shore.
"	J. M. Rees	Jersey Shore.
"	J. W. Reese	Jersey Shore.
"	J. H. Zinn, D. D.	Jersey Shore.
"	J. M. Reimensnyder, D. D.	Jersey Shore.
"	E. E. Berry	Jersey Shore.
1872	F. Aurand	Danville.
"	H. C. Haithcox, D. D.	Danville.
"	S. G. Shannon	Danville.
"	A. K. Zimmerman	Danville.
1873	C. S. Coates	Hughesville.
"	W. R. Wieand	Hughesville.
"	D. W. Leitzell	Hughesville.
"	Carl Schmidt	Hughesville.
"	F. W. Weatherwax	Hughesville.
"	H. F. Long	Hughesville.
"	A. B. Miller	Hughesville.
"	S. S. Miller	Hughesville.
"	J. Wagner, D. D.	Hughesville.
1874	D. S. Lentz	Williamsport.
"	A. B. Middleswarth	Williamsport.
"	E. S. Brownmiller, D. D.	Williamsport.
"	G. W. Stroup	Williamsport.
1875	H. Wagner	Benton.
"	D. R. P. Barry	Milton.
"	I. Irvine	Milton.
"	E. H. Leisenring, D. D.	Milton.
"	J. A. Flickinger	Milton.
"	W. Selner	Milton.
"	D. H. Shultz	Milton.
1876	J. B. Focht, D. D.	Lewisburg.
"	William Kelly	Lewisburg.
"	W. C. McCool	Lewisburg.
1877	Conrad Huber, D. D.	Bloomsburg.
"	E. B. Killinger, D. D.	Bloomsburg.
"	E. A. Best	Bloomsburg.
"	J. M. Hedrick	Bloomsburg.
"	J. M. Lingle	Bloomsburg.
"	E. Minter	Bloomsburg.
"	B. F. Pugh	Bloomsburg.
"	J. A. Wirt, D. D.	Bloomsburg.
"	J. A. M. Ziegler, D. D., Ph. D.	Bloomsburg.



Rev. H. C. Rose

Year.	Name.	Place of Convention.
1878	E. Lenhart	Hazleton.
"	S. E. Furst	Hazleton.
"	F. P. Manhart, D.D.	Hazleton.
"	Amos Sell	Hazleton.
"	M. V. Shadow	Hazleton.
"	H. W. Whitman	Hazleton.
1879	Isaac Krider	Shamokin.
"	J. V. Bodine	Shamokin.
"	J. A. West	Shamokin.
"	R. B. Starks	Shamokin.
1880	T. J. Frederick	Muncy.
"	A. J. Bean	Muncy.
"	M. L. Malick	Muncy.
"	J. N. Lenker, D.D.	Muncy.
"	A. R. Glaze	Muncy.
1881	M. L. Deitzler	Northumberland.
1882	J. E. F. Hassinger	Montoursville.
"	D. A. Shetler	Montoursville.
"	J. R. Sample	Montoursville.
1883	D. F. Giles	Selinsgrove.
"	I. P. Zimmerman	Selinsgrove.
1884	J. C. Schindel	Williamsport.
"	Samuel Krider	Williamsport.
1885	J. W. Hutchinson	Bloomsburg.
"	M. L. Schmucker	Bloomsburg.
1886	S. V. Dye	Hughesville.
"	G. E. Faber	Hughesville.
"	M. E. McLinn	Hughesville.
1887	F. L. Bergstresser, D.D.	Watsonstown.
"	H. N. Follmer, D.D.	Watsonstown.
"	J. L. Lipe	Watsonstown.
"	J. W. Shannon, D.D.	Watsonstown.
"	W. A. Trostle	Watsonstown.
1888	M. L. Exline	Lewisburg.
1889	W. L. Seabrook	Hazleton.
"	S. E. Bateman, M.D., Sc.D.	Hazleton.
"	J. M. Rearick	Hazleton.
"	A. C. Chatham	Hazleton.
"	George Trostle	Hazleton.
"	W. F. Steck	Hazleton.
"	O. G. Klinger	Hazleton.
1890	Hugh M. Bannen, D.D.	Catawissa.
"	Cyrus C. Benson	Catawissa.
"	W. H. Dale	Catawissa.
"	E. E. Dietterich	Catawissa.
1891	R. G. Bannen, D.D.	Burlingame.
"	W. H. Harding	Burlingame.
"	C. A. Hoy	Burlingame.
"	D. E. McLain	Burlingame.
"	H. C. Salem	Burlingame.
1892	D. B. Lau, D.D.	Northumberland.
"	W. H. Hilbish, D.D.	Northumberland.
1893	J. I. Stonecypher	Montgomery.
"	M. Grossman	Montgomery.
"	P. J. Spraker	Montgomery.
"	L. H. W. Kline	Montgomery.



Rev. M. S. Kemp, Litt. D.

Year.	Name.	Place of Convention.
1894	J. B. Lau	Milton.
"	T. B. Birch, Ph.D.	Milton.
"	F. Hesse	Milton.
1895	H. Q. Shadle	Sunbury.
"	Foster U. Gift	Sunbury.
"	E. R. McCauley, D.D.	Sunbury.
"	E. E. Schantz	Sunbury.
1896	Charles D. Russell	Danville.
"	John C. Fasold, Ph.D.	Danville.
"	Paul E. Bergeman	Danville.
"	Edgar Sutherland	Danville.
1897	M. M. Allbeck	Watson town.
"	M. S. Kemp, Litt.D.	Watson town.
"	F. J. Matter	Watson town.
"	R. W. Mottern	Watson town.
"	W. I. Redcay	Watson town.
"	C. E. Smith	Watson town.
1898	C. R. Botsford	Selinsgrove.
"	J. S. English	Selinsgrove.
1899	G. O. Ritter	Shamokin.
"	W. B. Lahr	Shamokin.
"	H. C. Michael	Shamokin.
"	M. L. Snyder	Shamokin.
1900	A. E. Cooper	Bloomsburg.
"	C. B. Harman	Bloomsburg.
1901	I. Hess Wagner, D.D.	Williamsport.
"	C. M. Nicholas	Williamsport.
"	H. E. Harman	Williamsport.
"	G. A. Livingston	Williamsport.
1902	W. A. Wolgemuth	Berwick.
"	Isaac Cannaday	Berwick.
"	H. C. Erdman	Berwick.
"	S. A. Garnes	Berwick.
1903	J. F. Knittle	Lewisburg.
"	Frank H. Traub	Lewisburg.
"	W. R. Miller	Lewisburg.
"	D. J. Snyder	Lewisburg.
"	W. H. Derr	Lewisburg.
1904	Charles Lambert	Hughesville.
"	M. Luther Brownmiller	Hughesville.
"	Luther W. Gross	Hughesville.
"	J. A. Richter	Hughesville.
"	Ira Z. Fenstermacher	Hughesville.
"	George F. Sheese	Hughesville.
1905	George W. Nicely	Montgomery.
"	M. Hadwin Fischer, Ph.D.	Montgomery.
"	L. Raymond Haus	Montgomery.
"	Paul H. Ketterman	Montgomery.
"	Philip H. Pearson	Montgomery.
"	William L. Price	Montgomery.
1906	Ralph H. Bergstresser	Hazleton.
"	Lloyd M. Daubenspeck	Hazleton.
"	Ephraim M. Gearhart	Hazleton.
"	Edward M. Morgan	Hazleton.
"	Frederick H. Schrader	Hazleton.



Rev. W. C. Dunlap



Rev. W. H. Derr



Rev. H. D. Shimer



Rev. J. H. C. Mantol

Year.	Name.	Place of Convention.
1907	Charles M. Teufel	Milton.
"	Calvin P. Swank	Milton.
"	Frederick W. Barry	Milton.
"	B. Franklin Bieber	Milton.
1908	Claude R. Allenbach	Muncy.
"	George D. Clark	Muncy.
"	Alvin Yugel	Muncy.
1909	Charles R. Myers	Williamsport.
"	Thomas B. Uber	Williamsport.
1910	.....	Watsontown.
1911	H. M. Bower	Northumberland.
"	E. A. Chamberlain	Northumberland.
"	J. D. Curran	Northumberland.
"	H. S. Dollman	Northumberland.
1912	A. C. Curran	S. Williamsport.
"	J. B. Swope	S. Williamsport.
"	Joseph Arnold	S. Williamsport.
1913	Walter H. Traub	Danville.
"	Wm. Benjamin Smith	Danville.
"	Wm. Joseph Schultz	Danville.
1914	Samuel S. Garnes	Jersey Shore.
"	Raymond N. Stumpf	Jersey Shore.
"	James A. Brosius	Jersey Shore.
"	William J. Dentler	Jersey Shore.
"	George B. Ely	Jersey Shore.
1915	Karl Eugene Irvin	Selinsgrove.
"	Harry Russell Shipe	Selinsgrove.
1916	.....	Hughesville.



Rev. E. H. Leisenring, D. D.

SKETCHES OF CHARGES IN THE SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

LUTHERAN CHURCH AT MUNCY.

REV. W. F. STECK.

The growth of the town of Muncy, the distance to Emanuels Church, the disposition on the part of the young people to attend and unite with other denominations in the borough, were among the reasons leading to the desire on the part of our fathers to organize a new congregation and build a new church in the town in which they lived. So, the following action was taken at a meeting in the house of M. S. Rissel on the 7th of November, 1852:

“Resolved, That it is our deliberate opinion that the interests of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Muncy Valley, and the welfare of the church in general, call for the formation of a new organization in the borough of Muncy.”

The following brethren were appointed a committee to prepare a constitution, viz., John Long, Michael S. Rissel and Teter D. Beeber.

At a meeting held Nov. 23rd, 1852, the constitution was adopted and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Muncy was organized. A building committee was elected and a subscription book provided.

A site was secured and the First Lutheran Church of Muncy erected according to the plans of the committee. On Wednesday, the 19th day of October, 1853, the edifice was dedicated, free of debt. The sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Winecoff, of Lewisburg, Penna. His text was from 1st Kings, 8-27. The following Lutheran ministers were present and assisted in the exercises of the great day: Revs. J. Winecoff, P. Sheeder, P. Born, P. Willard, S. Yingling, D. H. Bittle, C. J. Ehrhart, and Rev. Geo. Parson, Pastor.

The first communion service was held in the new church on

Easter Sunday, April 15th, 1854. Preparatory services were held on the previous Sunday afternoon, at which twenty new members were added to the church. Seventy-two persons communed.

The name of Elizabeth Trumbower appears on the next list of communicants and was doubtless one of the original members of the congregation. Only one person on this list is still living—Rev. J. R. Dimm, D. D.

The first Infant Baptisms recorded are on Feb. 5th, 1854. Charles Curtis, son of John and Julia Beeber and Chas. Lloyd, son of Charlotte Harris.

From date of its organization, Nov. 7th, 1852 to June 1st, 1865, Rev. Geo. Parsons was the beloved and efficient Pastor—covering a period of thirteen years, five months, six days. He was the Father of the Lutheran Church at Muncy, as he was the Father of the Lutheran Church at Hughesville and of not a few other Lutheran Churches in this vicinity, which were born during his pastorate of twenty-two years in the Muncy Valley. Hundreds and hundreds were added to the various Lutheran churches of the West Branch Valley during his ministry of nearly a quarter of a century, and it may fairly be said that no other Lutheran minister in his day and generation ever did more to extend the faith of Luther than Dr. George Parson did in the Valley of the West Branch. One hundred and forty-eight persons were added to the Lutheran Church of Muncy during his pastorate.

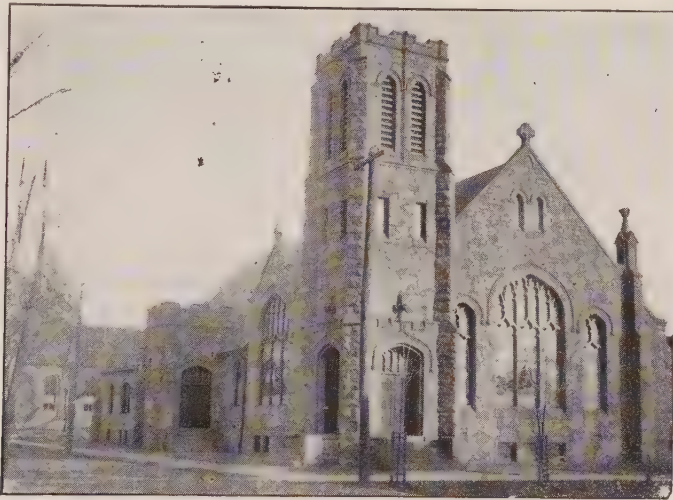
Rev. E. A. Sharretts was the successor of Dr. Parson in Muncy, serving the congregation from 1866 to 1869. Ninety-four persons were added to the church during the three years of his ministry. At this writing Dr. Sharretts is still living and is the oldest minister within the entire bounds of the Susquehanna Synod.

Rev. A. H. Aughe assumed pastoral charge of the congregation on Sept. 15th, 1869, remaining three years.

During the pastorate of Rev. Aughe thirty-seven members were added to the Lord, and an addition made to the church building at a cost of \$2,500.00. The building committee at this time consisted of M. S. Rissel, T. D. Beeber and Philip Heilman.

Up to the resignation of Rev. Aughe the Muncy Church and the one at Hughesville were united as one charge. At this junct-

ture the church at Hughesville somewhat unceremoniously, at least, in the eyes of their Muncy brethren, decided to become "free and independent." Judging from the amounts paid to the pastor's salary, \$545.00, by Hughesville and \$385.00 by Muncy, the Hughesville congregation was the stronger of the two churches, at least financially; so without the formality of any notice to her weaker Muncy sister, called a Pastor "for her own individual use and benefit." This action left the Muncy congregation in somewhat of a dilemma, "to be, or not to be" was the



Muncy, Pa.

question for her to answer. Some of the membership of the Muncy church were greatly disheartened and felt that they could never support a Pastor alone, and therefore proposed disbanding, and uniting with other Lutheran churches. Others said "never say die" and starting out with a subscription paper, succeeded in securing pledges for \$650.00 for the new Pastor's salary. The call was extended to the Rev. H. C. Haithcox, who entered his labors in Muncy April 1st, 1872. Rev. Haithcox served the congregation acceptably for two years and nine months, 52 persons uniting with the church under his leadership.

Rev. J. A. Hackenburg became the successor of Rev. Haithcox on May 1st, 1875. During his incumbency a much needed par-

sonage was erected at a cost of \$1,900.00 and seventy-seven members were added.

Rev. Hackenburg resigned Oct. 1st, 1877. Thus, for a period of about five years, the Muncy Lutheran Church constituted a separate pastorate, but owing to serious losses by death and removal, as well as the stringency of the times, it was decided in 1878 to form a union with St. John's Lutheran Church, of Black Hole Valley, under the name of the Muncy Charge. On Oct. 1st, 1878, Rev. E. H. Leisenring accepted a call to become Pastor of the newly constituted Muncy Charge and resigned Feb. 5th, 1884. During the six years of Rev. Leisenring's stay in Muncy 180 souls entered upon the way of life. Nov. 5th, 1882, the congregation celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. Rev. E. H. Leisenring was assisted in the exercises by two former pastors, Rev. Geo. Parsons, the venerated founder of the congregation and his successor, the Rev. E. A. Sharretts. At the Saturday evening service Rev. Sharretts preached from the text, "The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob." On Sunday morning, Rev. Parson preached, taking as his text, "for as the rain cometh down, and the snow from Heaven, and returneth not thither but watereth the earth and maketh it to bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth." In the evening, the historical sermon was delivered by Rev. Leisenring from the text, "Thirty years of age."

Rev. M. S Cressman took charge of the Muncy pastorate Feb. 1st, 1885 and resigned Feb. 5th, 1888. During Rev. Cressman's pastorate extensive improvements and repairs were made to the church and 26 added to the membership.

Rev. J. A. Koser accepted a call to Muncy May 1st, 1888, retiring from the field May 1st 1895. Rev. Koser received into the church at Muncy 233 persons and sixty at St. Johns, making a total of 318. Thirty members were added to the church at Montgomery which Rev. Koser served for a short time as a supply pastor. Various repairs and improvements were made upon the property of the church. During the pastorate \$3,320.00 were contributed for benevolence, \$10,800.00 for usual and unusual local expenses. During this time, the property of the church suffered from two disastrous floods, in June, 1889 the

water filled the church to the depth of over six feet, with four feet five inches in the parsonage. In May, 1894 the water in the church measured four feet five inches, with two feet seven inches in the parsonage. These two floods settled the question whether to repair or build a new church, also the site on higher ground of the proposed new church.

Rev. W. F. Steck became pastor Dec. 1st, 1895. During these years, which have intervened, a much larger number has been received into the fellowship of the Church of Muncy, than there are now members.

The present baptized membership of the church is 533. Confirmed membership 466. Communicant membership 356. Mere numbers, however, signify nothing. Only those numbers count who are "confirmed unto the end."

The greatest material achievement of the Church at Muncy during the present pastorate was the building and dedication, free of debt, of our new, beautiful Temple of God. It is centrally located on the corner of Main and Penn streets, constructed chiefly out of the stone taken from the old Muncy aqueduct. It is of English Gothic design, 116 feet long, fifty to seventy feet wide, and stands upon a plot of ground seventy-five feet wide and 184 feet long. There are two towers, one at the main entrance to the auditorium, and one at the entrance to the Sunday School department.

The trimmings are of Hummelstown brown-stone. The church is heated by steam and lighted by electricity and has beautiful leaded art glass windows throughout. Every stone in the structure represents the faith, love, labor and sacrifice of the souls who worship in this place, most of whom are the lineal descendants of those who one hundred and twenty-five years ago built the First Emanuel Church and of those who three-score years and three years past built the first church bearing the name of Luther in Muncy.

The corner-stone of the new church was laid on Sunday, April 29th, 1906, according to the ritual of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Rev. J. H. McGann, D. D., President of Susquehanna Synod, Rev. J. H. Barb, D. D., Rev. J. M. Steck, D. D., and Rev. R. G. Bannen, D. D., and Rev. W. F. Steck, the Pastor, were the ministers present.

The building committee were: Rev. W. F. Steck, president, J. Russell Smith, secretary, Hammond Michael, treasurer, and J. H. Bailey, J. C. Schuch, and F. C. Heilman in connection with the Trustees of the Congregation.

The dedication took place on Sunday, March 1st, 1908. Rev. Geo. M. Diffenderfer, D. D., of Carlisle, Penna., made an address in the morning. Rev. E. H. Leisenring, D. D., preached in the evening from Zach. 4-6.

Following the exercises of the day of dedication was a week of



rejoicing. Rev. C. G. Bikle talked of "Our Church" on Monday evening; Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder, D. D. told of "Our Bible School" on Tuesday evening; Rev. R. G. Bannen, D. D. exalted "Our Young People" on Wednesday evening; Rev. J. H. Barb, D. D. praised "Our Women" on Thursday evening, and Rev. W. C. Dunlap, D. D. stirred up "Our Men" on Friday night.

Memorial windows were placed in the new church in honor of all the former pastors of the congregation inscribed with their years of service, thus furnishing a connected history of the various pastors of the church from the days of its sainted founder, Rev. Geo. Parsons down to the present.

On Dec. 20th, 1914, quoting from President Manhart's report to the Susquehanna Synod, at Selinsgrove, 1915, "a fine pipe organ was dedicated at Muncy, Pa., at a cost of \$2,400.00, of which

sum Mr. Andrew Carnegie paid \$875.00. In addition, repairs were made to the parsonage costing \$400.00. All was paid for before the service of dedication. The President of the Synod preached in the morning and at the evening service Hon. A. W. Johnson, of Lewisburg, Penna., made a suitable address on music and worship. The Pastor assisted by the President of the Synod dedicated the organ."

MUNCY CREEK PASTORATE.

REV. J. I. STONECIPHER.

As at present constituted, this pastorate consists of the following four churches: Immanuel, situated midway between Muncy and Hughesville; Messiah, at Clarkstown; Mt. Zion, in Penn township, and Moreland, in Moreland township.

What has become of the original records, I do not know. The only one in possession of the Pastor dates back to 1878. This record furnishes but little history. Fortunately, however, a little volume entitled "Lutherans in Lycoming County" was written by the late Rev. J. M. Steck. To this little volume and its author I am indebted for whatever facts prior to this time I may record.

Immanuel Church.

This was, as far as we can learn, the first church located within the bounds of Lycoming county. For a long time it was the *only* church in the lower end of the county. The land was donated by Henry Shumaker, and consisted of a plot of thirteen acres of ground.

The deed was executed April 5, 1791. The church edifice was commenced at once. It was built of logs and afterwards weather-boarded. It was a large structure for those days, seating about six hundred persons. There were galleries on three sides of the building, and a "stem glass pulpit" on the other side, with a sounding board above it. The building was in every way worthy of the times of our fathers and their means. It was a Lutheran church, though generously opened for services to other denominations. To some, occasionally; others, regularly. Among the

latter were the Episcopalians and the German Reformed, who effected organizations in it.

At the time of its erection a school house was built by the congregation, just below the declivity, for a parochial school, which always in those days went with the erection of a Lutheran church edifice.

The second church building was erected in 1832. Jonas Yeakel was the builder. The corner-stone was laid April 5th of that year. It was beautifully engraved by Simon Dimm, father of Rev. J.



Emanuel Church, near Hughesville

R. Dimm, D. D., LL. D., who, still lives at Selinsgrove, Pa., as Professor Emeritus of Susquehanna University, of which institution he was second president. The corner-stone is now found by that of the present edifice.

This church was union, Lutheran and Reformed. Like the first, it was built with galleries on three sides, and a high pulpit. At the dedication services Rev. Charles P. Miller was assisted by Rev. J. G. Anspach, Lutheran, of Buffalo Valley, and Rev. Freese of the Reformed church of the same place. Rev. Freese preached the dedicatory sermon from Psalm 87:2, 3. In the

afternoon a sermon was preached in English by Rev. Patterson of the Presbyterian church.

The corner-stone of the present and third edifice was laid August 28, 1869. Rev. U. Myers was pastor. The building committee consisted of John McConnell, Francis Beeber, Samuel Buck and Charles Gortner, all descendants of those interested in the church's earliest history. The church was dedicated May 1, 1870. It cost \$3,480.25. Rev. U. Myers was assisted by Revs. U. Graves and A. H. Aughey, Lutheran, and Rev. A. L. Evans, Reformed.

The Pastors.

While the first church was built in 1791, there was a Lutheran minister on the ground at least ten years earlier. From a baptismal certificate in the hands of Jacob Turner we learn that Pastor Lehman baptized Susan Catharine Gortner, afterwards Baker, grandmother of Rev. J. M. Steck, from whose narrative we gather these facts), in 1781. As to whether he conducted services for the people at that time we do not know. All that we have to guide us is a record of a number of baptisms, some of which took place previous to the erection of the first church edifice. This would indicate that the people had at least an occasional service, doubtless conducted in private houses. He might have been pastor at the time the first church edifice was erected and dedicated. From such certificates it would indicate that he was the pastor up to 1795. After this there is no record of baptisms until 1801. There seems to have been a vacancy during this interim. The first pastor's name we find on the records is that of Victor George Charles Stock. He came from Sunbury and began his labors in 1801. He formed, instructed and confirmed a catechetical class of thirty-four members, and confirmed them on Good Friday, 1801, and was followed by communion on Easter Sunday. The list shows that fifty-nine communed, and it is the first communion list found on the records. There is nothing to indicate how long this pastor served. The certificate of baptism of Sarah Baker Steck, (mother of Rev. J. M. Steck), shows that he was still pastor in 1809. That his ministry here ended here previous to 1813 we know from the fact that Father Jacob Dimm (still living at the time of the centennial) was baptized in that year by Pastor Frederick Engle.

We do not know when Pastor Engle resigned, nor when his successor, Rev. Jacob Repass, began his labors. From baptisms administered it is shown that he was pastor as early as 1816 and as late as 1823. Father Miller thinks that he preached until near the time that Rev. William Garman took charge of the congregation. The territory embraced in the field served by Rev. Repass extended over parts of Northumberland, Union, Columbia and Lycoming counties.

His successor, Rev. William Garman, began his labors in 1829.



Mt. Zion Church, Muncy Creek Charge

He instructed a class of twenty-six catechumens and confirmed them on March 15, 1830. There was communion the following day. The list showed one hundred and eighteen; the largest thus far on record. Pastor Garman resigned some time during the year 1832. He resigned because he felt that the people should have English as well as German preaching.

Rev. Charles Philip Miller became his successor, and during his pastorate the second church edifice was completed and dedicated. There is no record showing the length of time he served. His last recorded baptism is Feb. 2, 1834. He must have been

pastor at least to the close of that year, for he baptized Rev. J. M. Steck, who was born Oct. 19, 1834.

Rev. Charles F. Staver was the next pastor. He commenced his labors Nov. 20, 1836. He confirmed a class of thirty-eight on Nov. 18, 1837. Among these we find the names of Michael and Daniel Steck. The former was Superintendent of Indian Affairs for several years in New Mexico. The latter became one of the most eloquent and successful ministers of our church. He was called from his earthly labors while serving as pastor at Gettysburg.

Rev. John T. Williams succeeded Rev. Staver as pastor, beginning his labors in the Fall of 1839, and continuing until 1843. He was instrumental in gathering large numbers into the church. Some of them later became prominent in the Lutheran ministry. Among these persons we find the name of Rev. Joshua Evans. He was afterwards represented in the Lutheran ministry by his son, Rev. W. P. Evans, of Baltimore. Rev. Jacob Steck afterwards engaged in educational work in South Carolina was received at the same time, as was also the Rev. R. Hill, D. D., later Superintendent of Mt. Airy Theological Seminary of the Lutheran Church at Philadelphia. Numbered among a class of forty-nine received into this church by Rev. Williams one June 3, 1843, was one afterwards prominent in the Lutheran ministry, the Rev. J. Gortner Butler, D. D. Two hundred and twenty-seven persons communed at the service on the day following the reception of these persons into the church.

Rev. George Parsons, D. D., took charge of the congregation Dec. 8, 1844, and was pastor until June, 1865. Hundreds were added to the Muncy congregations during his ministry. Soon after his arrival two new churches were erected in White Deer Valley; two in the Lairdsville charge; one in Hughesville, and another in Muncy. Thus was prepared the way for the formation of new charges, so that to-day, from the territory from which Immanuel church originally drew her membership and over which she exercised a fostering care as the central congregation, there are nearly a score of churches.

But the new organizations effected on the territory of the mother church told largely against the length of her communion list. The great throngs who had once frequented her courts

were seen entering her gates no more. They worshiped in other Lutheran churches established on her territory. It must have been with sad hearts that those who remained looked upon the decreasing numbers. True it was in the interest of progress and ought not to have been otherwise. But nevertheless it was no light trial. Their hearts must have been made sadder still, when by action of Synod, During the pastorate of Rev. E. A. Sharretts of the Muncy charge, her doors were closed against regular service, and worship ceased at the altars erected on the sacred spot where for generations their fathers had worshiped.



Moreland Church

Those only now were near her altars, now for the first time deserted, who slept in her quiet cemetery. But there were those in the vicinity whose love for the dear old church was not crushed out by Synodical edict. The Dimms, the Harmons, the McConnells, the Beebers, the Bucks, and others came to the rescue, and at the end of two years the doors swung open to the Rev. U. Myers, who commenced to preach the Word and build up the waste places of Zion. He commenced with twelve members, and in two years the number was increased to fifty-two communicants worshiping in a new church edifice. Thus old

Immanuel starts out upon a new lease of life and usefulness. Again we feel like saying from our hearts, thank God, thank God, the dear old church with all its hallowed memories is perpetuated.

After the resignation of Rev. Myers, this church was supplied for a short time by Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder, then a theological student.

Since then the following pastors have been in charge:

Rev. Geo. Eicholtz commenced his labors in 1872 and served the congregation faithfully and acceptably for several years.

Rev. W. R. McCutcheon, 1878 to close of 1881.

Rev. J. R. Sample, April 1, 1882, to April 1, 1887.

Rev. A. B. Erhard, May 5, 1887, served as pastor eleven months.

Rev. A. C. Felker succeeded him and died while pastor here. His body lies buried in the cemetery adjoining the church.

Rev. M. H. Havice, 1889 to 1891.

Rev. D. B. Lau took charge Feb. 1, 1892.

Rev. J. M. Steck served as temporary supply from Nov. 1, 1893, to February 1, 1894.

Rev. W. J. Wagner served as regular pastor May 1, 1894, to Feb. 1, 1897.

Rev. I. B. Crist, pastor five years.

Rev. J. C. Fassold, Nov. 1, 1903, to May 31, 1906.

Rev. L. R. Haus, March 1, 1907, to April 1, 1908.

Rev. C. H. Day.

Rev. A. H. Williamson, supply June 10, 1911, to autumn of 1914.

Rev. J. I. Stonecypher, regular pastor May 9, 1915, to present time.

The membership of Emmanuel church has for years been on the decline. The multiplication of rural churches; unsettled conditions caused by the altogether too frequent change of pastors; the rapid growth and development of our churches in the nearby towns of Muncy and Hughesville, and the so much better facilities for church work afforded there,—all these combined have for years been making exceedingly difficult the proposition of maintaining the work in the mother organization.

What the future may hold in store for her we cannot see.

Her past has been a glorious one. She has been a real pioneer. She is one of the forces which early blazed the way for civilization in the country. Making her way in the wilds of the forest, she felled the trées and built of logs a temple unto God. The Red Man was yet in the land. He had his trail over the hills and along the valley of the Susquehanna. These pioneer churchmen at old Emmanuel knew what it was to worship under difficulties. When they went to church they often carried their rifles with them. That was for this country the time when the little leaven was put into the handful of meal. It has wrought marvelously during the century and a quarter that has passed. Whatever the Lutheran Church in Lycoming County is to-day is due in large measure to the self-sacrificing labors of these devoted pioneers who laid the foundation for the work in this part of the state at old Emmanuel.

Messiah Church.

The land for the site of Messiah Lutheran church of Clarkstown was donated by Mr. Henry Gold. The building was erected



Messiah Church, Clarkstown

in 1868 during the pastorate of the Rev. Geo. Eicholtz. The original membership consisted in large part of persons living in Clarkstown and vicinity,—a goodly number to the south upon the Muncy hills, and who withdrew from the old mother church (Emanuel) in order to form this new congregation. Among those constituting the charter membership can be recalled the names of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gold; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Litchard; Mr. and Mrs. Jared DeWald; Mr. and Mrs. H. T. McCarty; Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Albeck; Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Zarr; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Albeck; Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Albeck; Mr. John Albeck; Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Beaver; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Turner; Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Kisner. Of this number Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Albeck alone survive. They are now members of the Moreland congregation.

The present church roll still bears a goodly number of the old family names,—descendants of the original founders. This church has just been remodeled and newly furnished at a cost of Fourteen Hundred Dollars. The rededication services were held December 3, 1916.

Mt. Zion church was erected during the pastorate of the Rev. George Parsons in the early sixties. It is the oldest, and was for many years the only church of any denomination in Penn Township.

Moreland church has been part of the Muncy Creek pastorate only since the year 1903. It formerly belonged to the Lairdsville charge.

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Spruce Street, Between Front Street and Second Streets,
Sunbury, Pa.

Historical Sketch.

The first Lutheran Church organized in Sunbury, Pa., was located at the corner of what is now Walnut street and River avenue, just about one square from the location of this church. This was in 1768.

The preparatory work for the organization of Grace Church was done in a Union Sunday School conducted in the public school building on the corner of Second and Spruce streets. Later a Lutheran Sunday School was organized by the Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D., pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Sunbury, in 1890. In 1895 the lot upon which Grace Church now stands was purchased, and on April 25th the cornerstone was laid for the building.



Grace Church, Sunbury

The Building Committee consisted of Rev. J. H. Weber, president; W. H. Kesty, secretary; J. M. Zimmerman, treasurer; R. F. Krohn and Bailey Kennedy.

Grace Lutheran Church was organized July 24, 1898, by Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D., and C. H. Brosius. There were fifty-three charter members. Rev. C. H. Brosius, who made the preliminary canvass, was elected pastor and continued as the spiritual guide of the young congregation until June, 1907, when he resigned to accept an appointment as missionary to Africa.

Rev. James A. Hartman was elected pastor in May, 1907,

and began his pastorate in September, 1907. The congregation then had a membership of about 85 communicants, with a substantial chapel, which was paid for, an ample lot upon which to build an auditorium, and a comfortable parsonage upon which rested a debt of about \$600.

During the last nine years there has been steady growth in all the activities of the church. The communicant membership has grown to about 240, while the confirmed list is nearly 300. The Sunday School has an enrolled membership of about 350, with an average attendance of 200.

Grace Chapel was enlarged and generally improved during the summer of 1909, at a cost of \$1,500. An addition of 14 feet was added on the west side, and a convenient study for the pastor was built on the east side. The entire building was painted, the walls frescoed, and a new carpet laid on the floor.

The year 1915 and 1916 marked a new era in the history of Grace Church.

Two events are of special note and are of particular interest. The first is the fact that Grace Church reached the point of self-support during the year 1915.

From her organization until this time, September 1, 1915, the congregation had been assisted in the support of her pastor by the Board of Home Missions.

It was at a congregation meeting held on the 5th of September, 1915, that it was unanimously decided to relieve the Board of Home Missions of any further aid, and to assume the entire salary of the pastor. This step was made possible because of the growth and generosity of the congregation.

The second important step taken was the congregation's purpose to build an auditorium or main church building. The congregation had for several years felt the need of better accommodations and larger facilities to do her work.

The congregation took definite action in May, 1915. The building committee consisted of the following: Reuben F. Krohn, President; Rev. Jas. A. Hartman, Secretary; M. P. Kreider, Treasurer; T. M. Wetzel, W. L. Messner, Elmer E. Mantz, John H. Fox.

W. H. Lee, of Shamokin, was the architect, and Malick & Erdman, the contractors. The church was dedicated April 9th, 1916.

Dr. John A. Singmaster, of Gettysburg, and President of the General Synod, and Dr. A. Stewart Hartman, Associate General Secretary of the Boards of Home Mission and Church Extension, were the speakers. The services were in charge of the pastor, Rev. J. A. Hartman.

The congregation has a church property valued at \$22,000 and a substantial parsonage adjoining valued at about \$2,500.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH,

900 Susquehanna Ave., Sunbury, Pa.

BY REV. W. H. HILBISH, D. D., PASTOR.

In the year 1903 the need of Lutheran Church in the fifth ward, Sunbury, Pa. was recognized by the Susquehanna Synod. The matter was brought before the body then assembled in Lewisburg, Pa., by Mrs. Chas. Steele of Northumberland, in the shape of a resolution recommending the establishment of a congregation in the fifth ward of Sunbury, Pa. The resolution was adopted and a committee was appointed to take charge of the matter. Mr. George E. Scheese, a senior in the Theological Seminary of Selinsgrove, was appointed missionary pastor. In conjunction with the committee of Synod the missionary pastor canvassed the territory and on August 23, 1903, an organization was effected with a charter membership of 53. Rev. J. M. Anspach, D. D., Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D., Rev. C. H. Brosius, Rev. C. R. Botsford and the missionary pastor officiated at the organization. The services were held for some time in the fifth ward school house and from the start the outlook was good. In May, 1904, Mr. Scheese resigned the charge and Mr. E. M. Gearhart, a junior at Susquehanna Theological Seminary, took charge June 1. The year of worship in the school house is well remembered by the most of the congregation. It was a year full of labor, when they were planning for and looking forward to a House of Worship. At the end of the year these anticipations took shape when the ground was broken on the corner of Susquehanna Avenue and Amy Street for the new church. On July 24, 1904 the corner-stone was laid with fitting ceremony.

This beautiful stone was a gift to the church from Mr. Guy Heckert, of Millersburg, Pa. At this service the president of Synod officiated, assisted by Rev. J. R. Dimm, D. D., Rev. C. R. Botsford, Rev. C. H. Brosius and Rev. E. M. Gearhart. The



Trinity Church, Sunbury.

following year was a busy one, working for the completion of the church. At last the fond hopes were realized when on May 28, 1905, the building completed was dedicated to the service of Almighty God. The president of Synod officiated at these services, assisted by Rev. J. M. Steck, D. D., Rev. C. R. Botsford, Rev. C. W. Raver, Rev. C. H. Brosius, Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D., and Rev. E. M. Gearhart. At this service subscriptions large enough to meet the entire indebtedness were raised.

The historical event in the history of Trinity was the paying

off and burning of the first mortgage held against the church. This mortgage was held by Susquehanna University. Sept. 11th, 1907, the trustees of Trinity met the registrar of the University at the court house and the mortgage was satisfied and canceled. Arousel by this event the members at once set to work with the motto, "A church free of debt." They persevered until that very thing was accomplished. This effort was ended when on March 14th, 1909, amid great rejoicing and thankfulness the last paper held against the congregation was burned and the entire indebtedness wiped out.

At this same service a splendid new organ was dedicated to the service of God. The significant part of the dedication being the fact that the organ was placed in the church the last week in February and was dedicated free of all encumbrances, with all the necessary electrical appliances, in less than four weeks. This was made possible largely by the splendid gifts of Mr. Andrew Carnegie and Mr. C. C. Seebold, of Sunbury, Pa.

Rev. E. M. Gerhart resigned the pastorate October 1st, 1911, and was succeeded by Rev. L. G. Stouffer, May 19th, 1912.

During the pastoral care of Rev. Stouffer the beautiful and modern parsonage was built on the adjoining lot on Susquehanna Avenue at a cost of \$3,100, exclusive of the lot. Rev. Stouffer resigned as pastor July 1st, 1914 and was succeeded by Rev. W. H. Hilbish, D. D., November 1st, 1914.

During the pastorate of Rev. Hilbish the church basement was fitted up for social purposes at an expenditure of \$200.00 and \$1,050.00 paid on the parsonage debt. A beautiful Mathusheck piano was also placed in the Sunday School.

Thus have passed into history the 14 years of service. They have been successful years, but who can estimate the possibilities of the future? With a membership over four fold what it was when the church was organized, a splendidly equipped church, a beautiful and modern parsonage, a growing section of the city as our field and an enthusiastic membership to push the work of the Lord what can we not do?

ZION, SUNBURY.

It is impossible to give definite information about the beginnings of Zion Lutheran church. In 1772, when Sunbury was laid out, a tract of land on Third Street, between Penn and Church Streets, was donated to the Lutheran church by the proprietor. This is proof that a congregation was in existence before the Revolutionary war. Nor is there any definite information available concerning the early pastors, tho it is probable that the church had been served by Revs. John Herbst, Geistweiter, Unger, and Christian Espich previous to the erection of its first building in 1791. The church had early begun to hold its meetings in the log schoolhouse on the corner of Walnut Street and River Alley.

In 1791, during the pastorate of Rev. Espich, the construction of a church at Third and Church Streets was begun. In the following spring, before the roof was completed, the congregation found itself unable to complete the building on account of lack of funds. Mr. Christian Gettig was then sent to Philadelphia, with a commission which read in part as follows:

"We, the subscribers, elders of the Lutheran congregation at Sunbury, have undertaken to build a house of worship for said congregation, having one erected and partly under roof, but finding ourselves rather weak and unable to finish it, as many of us have suffered greatly by the hostile Indians in the late war, do therefore take this liberty of asking a charity of our fellow brethren and citizens at Philadelphia and elsewhere, do therefore request the favor and empower our trusty friend and brother, Christian Gettig, Esq., one of the elders and managers of our congregation, to collect a charity for us."

Appeals for help were sent to other outside places, but the cost was not entirely provided for when the building was dedicated in 1793. The building was about forty by thirty feet in size, and was built of rough logs at a cost, including the bell, of \$2,406.06. The architect was Nicholas Rauscher, and the auditors reported that "the architecture of the building is a masterpiece for the small sum of money that was expended." Other men active in the building operations were Christian Gettig, Paul Baldy, Peter Smith, George Zimmerman, Stofel Eilert,

Frederick Lazarus, Sebastian Heitz, John Painter, Philip Pheffer, and B. Hubley.

Rev. Christian Espich probably served the charge until 1812, when Rev. J. P. Shindel began a pastorate that lasted until 1853. The charge at that time included several congregations, some as



Zion Church, Sunbury

far away as Catawissa, Shamokin and Gratztown. The call to the Sunbury church stated that the pastor should preach in Sunbury once in four weeks, and receive a salary from that congregation of \$75 a year.

In 1819 Rev. Shindel was invited to become pastor of a charge that included eight churches west of the Susquehanna, of which Selinsgrove was the nearest, in addition to his already large

field. He agreed to supply this charge temporarily, with the help of an assistant, Mr. Jacob W. Smith, who was then studying Theology under him. In 1821, Mr. Smith became pastor of six of the congregations, but Selinsgrove and Row's church continued in the Sunbury pastorate until 1843.

Rev. Shindel's pastorate was a period of rapid advancement for the Sunbury church. In 1815, a pipe organ was installed. In 1826, the rough log church was plastered inside and out and many other improvements were made. A new constitution was adopted in 1837. A union Sunday School had for some time been conducted in Sunbury, but a separate Lutheran Sunday School was first formed in 1841. The log school house in which the congregation had long ago worshiped was sold and a new brick school house built just north of the church, at a cost of \$443, and this provided a suitable place for the Sunday School. An agreement made by the pastor and congregation in 1842 shows clearly the improvement in conditions. The pastor was to receive from the Sunbury congregation \$250 a year, and to preach there every two weeks, alternately in German and English. This is the first definite mention of English services.

In 1840-2 there was much agitation in the Lutheran church over the "new measures" and the language question. Under Rev. Shindel's leadership the congregation favored the "new measures" and the use of the English language, and joined the newly organized East Pennsylvania Synod in 1842. During the last few years of the Shindel pastorate, Revs. H. Ziegler, of Selinsgrove, and M. J. Alleman, of Northumberland, preached frequently in Sunbury in the English language, and in 1851 Rev. P. Born was called as English pastor. Soon after this Rev. Shindel suffered a stroke of paralysis and was able to do little more active work, and died in 1853.

Rev. P. Born's pastorate lasted from 1851-1859. He preached at Plum Run and Stone Church in addition to Sunbury. His pastorate marks the beginning of the exclusive use of English in the services.

In 1853 it was decided to build a new church. On September 8, 1854, the cornerstone of the new church was laid, and on Christmas, 1855, the new church was dedicated. Rev. B. Kurtz, D.D., LL.D., of Baltimore, Editor of the Lutheran Observer, and

George Parson, D. D., of Muncy, President of the East Pennsylvania Synod, took part in the dedicatory services. The new church was built on the site of the previous building. It was a brick structure, built at a cost of about \$5,000. An interesting innovation in connection with the new building was that from this time on the congregation might seat itself by families—up to this time there had been separate pews for the men and women. Dr. Born resigned to accept the principalship of the Classical Department of Missionary Institute at Selinsgrove.

The pastorate of Rev. P. Rizer was brief. He came from New Berlin to the Sunbury charge in November, 1859, and remained until 1861, when the great Civil war opened, and he became a chaplain in the army.

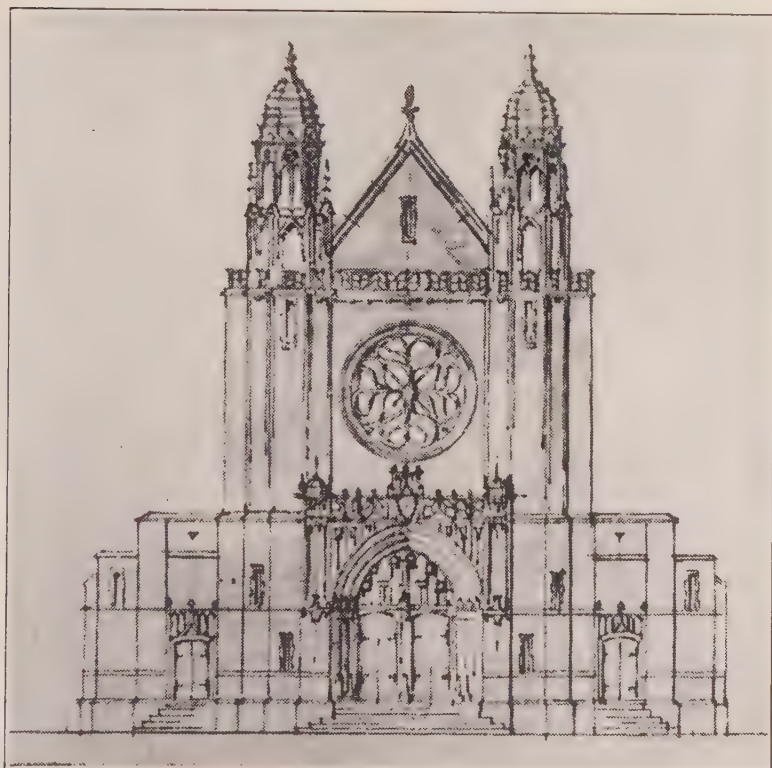
During 1861, M. Rhodes, then a student in Missionary Institute at Selinsgrove, supplied the Sunbury charge. In 1862 he was licensed by the Synod and became regular pastor. The charge at this time included Sunbury and Northumberland, and paid a salary of \$450, tho the salary was increased during this pastorate. In 1867, Dr. Rhodes resigned to accept a call to Zion Lutheran church of Lebanon.

Rev. G. W. Hemperly, of Sharon Springs, N. Y., was elected as Dr. Rhodes' successor, and served until 1876. Among the accomplishments of the church during this pastorate was the building of an addition to the rear of the church, at a cost of \$5,580, which was all provided for when the dedicatory exercises took place. Rev. Dr. F. W. Conrad preached the dedicatory sermon. A parsonage was also built, at a cost of \$4,000. Under Rev. Hemperly the Sunday School developed very rapidly, and its membership increased from about 130 to 500. A Y. M. C. A. was also organized. The Northumberland congregation had but 25 members when Rev. Hemperly took up the work, but by the end of his pastorate had 200 members, and became a separate charge.

The successor of Rev. Hemperly was the Rev. George Parson, whose pastorate began in December, 1876 and continued until 1884. During this period large increases were made in the membership of the church and Sunday School. Extensive rearrangements and improvements in the equipment of the Sunday School were made. Dr. Parson was stricken with an attack

of typhoid malaria in 1884 and, as his condition did not improve rapidly, resigned, but continued to live in Sunbury.

March 1, 1885, the Rev. S. G. Shannon began a pastorate which continued until March 31, 1889. The notable achievement during this period was the erection of the church in which the



Proposed Zions, Sunbury

congregation now worships. The increasing railroad traffic made the Third Street location undesirable and a lot was purchased at Market and Fifth Streets for \$5,000. Ground was broken for the new church August 2, 1886, and the corner-stone was laid in the following October. The dedication exercises took place June 7-8, 1888. Among the outsiders taking part in this event were the Revs. J. Yutzy, of Selinsgrove; J. H. Menges, of Philadelphia, and J. A. Wirt, of Hughesville. The

church is a large brick structure trimmed with stone. The total cost, including the lot, was \$26,587.09, and this sum was entirely subscribed by the close of the day of dedication.* The old parsonage was sold and a new parsonage was erected, adjoining the new church. The publication of a parish paper, *Zion's Herald*, was begun in 1886. A Young Peoples' Society of Christian Endeavor was organized in 1888.

On September 1, 1889, the Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D., became pastor and remained until his death on January 8, 1908.

On March 31, 1891 the one hundredth anniversary of the erection of the first church building was celebrated. All the living ex-pastors were invited to attend. Dr. P. Born, of Selinsgrove, was unable to attend on account of the serious illness of his wife, but addresses and reminiscences were delivered by the following: Revs. M. J. Alleman,, of York, Pa.; M. Rhodes, D. D., of St. Louis, Mo.; G. W. Hemperly, of Cobleskill, N. Y.; George Parson, D. D., of Sunbury, and S. G. Shannon, of Philadelphia. The fiftieth anniversary of the Sunday School was observed on the same day, when special honors were paid to Mr. John Haas, Mr. Solomon Stroh, and Mrs. Mary Stroh, who had been very active in the work of the Sunday School during the whole period of its existence.

A branch Sunday School was organized in September, 1890, in a school house at the corner of Spruce and Second Streets, which within eight months had a membership of about 250.

Rev. J. M. Francis, D. D., of Springfield, Illinois, was called to become the successor of Dr. Weber, and began his work in Sunbury May 17, 1908. His pastorate continued until August 31, 1916, when he resigned to accept a call to Waynesboro, Pa. In 1911 a lot adjoining the church property was purchased at a cost of \$14,000, and the building of a new Sunday School chapel was begun. This chapel was dedicated on March 24, 1912, when addresses were made by the Revs. J. H. Musselman, of Danville, Pa., and F. R. Wagner, of Huntingdon, Pa. The parsonage was also extensively remodeled.

In March, 1910, an important progressive step was taken, when, following a sermon on Foreign Missions by the pastor, this action was taken by the congregation:

"Resolved, That we, the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church of Sunbury, Pa., in congregational meeting assembled this 28th day of March, 1910, support Rev. Charles H. Brosius as our Foreign Missionary pastor at the Muhlenberg Mission, Monrovia, Africa, at a salary of \$750."

In connection with this new missionary activity, a new system of finances was established which more than doubled the benevolent offerings.

The development of the congregation and of the various auxiliary organizations was very rapid during the pastorate of Dr. Francis. The Sunday School more than doubled in attendance and has a membership of over 1700. 1327 persons were received into church membership. The offerings for benevolence totaled \$28,400 and for current expenses \$92,000.

The church and the Sunday school room have proved much too small to accommodate the congregation, and action has been taken to erect a new and modern church edifice at a cost of about \$65,000, and plans are now being perfected for this building.

List of Pastors, Zion Church, Sunbury.

John Herbst.

——— Geistweiter.

——— Unger.

Christian Espich, before 1791-1812 (,).

J. P. Shindel, 1812-1853.

M. J. Alleman (English pastor), 1849-1851.

Peter Born, D. D., 1851-1859.

P. Rizer, 1859-1861.

M. Rhodes, D. D., 1861-1867.

G. W. Hemperly, 1867-1876.

George Parson, D. D., 1876-1884

S. G. Shannon, 1884-1889.

J. H. Weber, D. D., 1889-1908.

J. M. Francis, D. D., 1908-1916.

C. R. Bowers, 1917-

PLUM CREEK CHARGE.

EDEN CHURCH.

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church, of Plum Creek, was organized in 1844 by Rev. J. P. Shindel, the first officers and signers of the Constitution being George Drear, George Savage, George Fasold, Philip Weiser, Henry Fasold, and Daniel Conrad. In addition to these, forty-six members composed the original congregation.

The erection of a church edifice was immediately begun and the corner-stone laid on the 22nd of April, 1844, Rev. J. P. Shindel officiating. It was a one-story frame building, situated on the Plum Creek road, four miles east of Sunbury, in Rockefeller Township. It served as a place of worship until 1873, when it was removed and the present two-story brick edifice erected. This was dedicated October 12, 1873, at which time Rev. A. K. Zimmerman was pastor. Since that time it has served well as a place of worship until the present time (1917).

It is now being repaired and when completed will be one of the nicest country churches of the East. New fancy German glass memorial windows have replaced the old ones. A beautiful painting of the Resurrection has been placed in the front of the church. New carpet, new metal ceiling, and a large bell have been contributed. The inside is arranged in threes to represent the Holy Trinity and is all newly painted. In a short time, after the gasoline lighting system has been finished, the church will be dedicated.

At this time Reverend Charles Lantz serves the congregation, the following having been his predecessors: Reverends J. P. Shindel, Peter Born, D. D., Geo. P. Weaver, A. H. Shertz, Joseph Focht, E. E. Berry A. K. Zimmerman, G. E. Harsh, Sidney E. Bateman, A. C. Felker, Cyrus E. Benson, Wm. Trostle, J. W. Shaffer, A. C. Forscht, C. W. Fritch, L. G. Stauffer, E. Gilbert, J. M. Stover.

ST. PETER'S.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, of Hollowing Run, was organized by Rev. Peter Born, D. D., in 1859, at a grove in the valley of Hollowing Run. There were twenty-five con-

stituent members, from whom Isaac Drummheller and Moses Reitz were elected as deacons, and Samuel Reitz and Geo. Weiser as elders.

The church building, a one-story frame edifice, was dedicated January 1, 1860, by Rev. Peter Born, D. D., and H. Zeigler, D. D. Since then the church has been repainted and several changes made so that now it is a neat and comfortable place of worship.

It has been served by the following pastors: Born, Zeigler, Weaver, Shertz, Focht, Berry, Zimmerman, Harsh, Bateman, Felker, Benson, Trostle, Shaffer, Forscht, Fritch, Stauffer, Gilbert, Stover, and Lantz.

ST. JOHN'S, SNYDERTOWN.

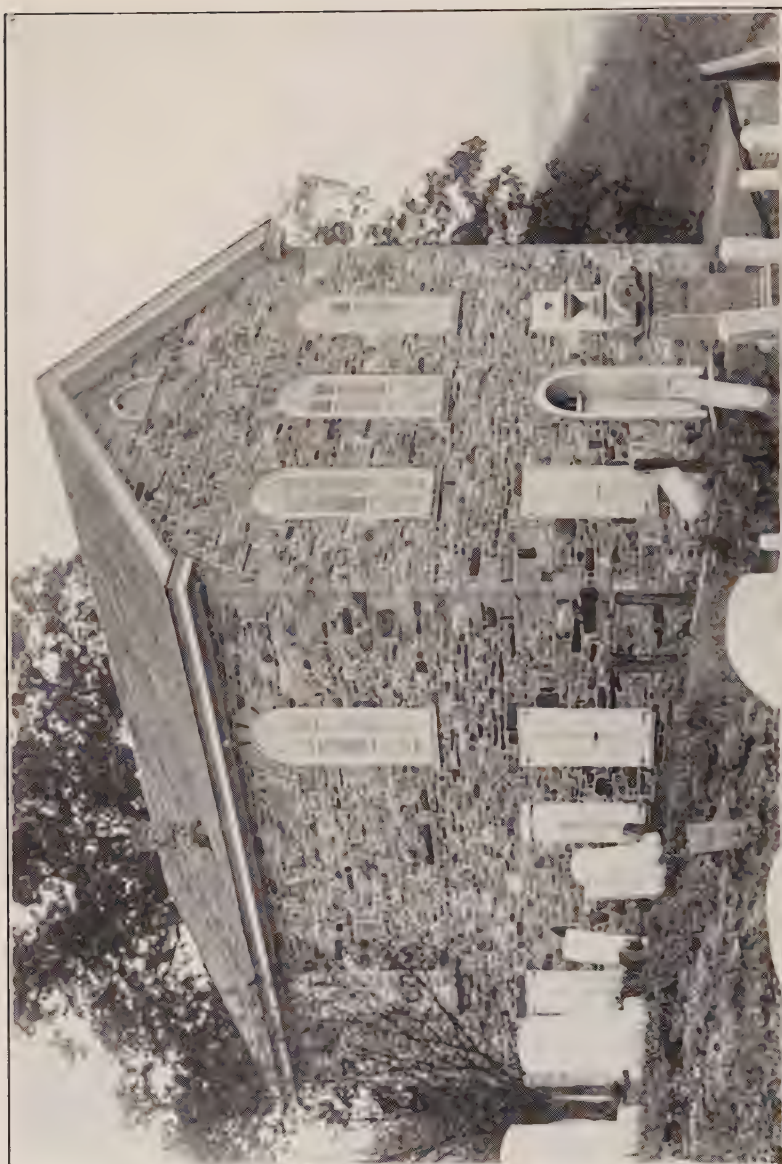
St. John's Lutheran and Reformed Church of Snyderstown was organized in 1828 with the following members: John Evert, John Smith, Samuel Gonsar, Jacob Hoover, Geo. Arnold, Valentine Klase, Jacob Klase, Abraham Klase, Andrew Smith, Andrew Kanderman, Benjamin Kanderman, Michael Evert, Wm. Martz and wife, Peter Keffer, John Keffer, Daniel Keffer, John Evert, Jr., Solomon Evert, and Solomon Hartzel.

Mr. John Evert presented the congregation with an acre of land upon a part of which a frame church edifice was erected, while the remainder of the land is still in use as a burial ground. In 1870 the congregation purchased a lot on the opposite side of the road and erected thereon a brick edifice forty by sixty feet at a cost of \$4,108.66. A separation occurring between the Reformed and Lutheran elements of the congregation, the Lutheran party purchased a lot and built the present large, beautiful building as it now is.

The following Lutheran pastors served the congregation: Shindel, Wampole, Shertz, Vought, Rizer, Berry, Zimmerman, Frederick, Harsh, Bateman, Benson, Shannon, Trostle, Shaffer, Forscht, Fritch, Stauffer, Gilbert, Stover and Lantz.

ZION.

Zion, or Stone, Lutheran and Reformed Church is located on the Tulpehocken road six and a-half miles southeast of Sunbury and two miles northwest of Trevorton. The ground was



Zion (Stone) Church, Northumberland County

presented by Dr. Martin Raker in 1814 and some of the timbers for the building were prepared in that year, but it was not completed until 1816. It is a stone structure, two stories high. Originally it was but one story with galleries around three sides. At a meeting on the 18th of January, 1861, it was decided to substitute a second story for the galleries. This was accomplished during the year under the supervision of Elias Emric and J. F. Lerch.

Some years later the building was remodelled at a cost of five hundred dollars. The first organization occurred in 1806 with eight members. For a while public worship was conducted in a log school house which stood about four hundred yards from the present church edifice. The school house was constructed with a swinging partition in the middle; one end of the building thus being used as a school room and the other as a dwelling for the teacher. On the occasion of public preaching the partition was swung open and the entire space used as a place of worship.

Among those most prominent in the original erection of a church edifice were Geo. Long, Wm. Reeser, Samuel Bloom, Geo. Haupt, Martin Raker, Jacob Raker, Geo. Baker, Wm. Bartholomew, Jacob Zimmerman, and Geo. Savage.

Rev. J. P. Shindel was pastor in 1816 when the building was dedicated. It is now over one hundred years old and with a few late repairs is still in a good state of preservation.

The following Lutheran pastors served the congregation: Shindel (1813-1851), Born, Weaver, Shertz, Focht, Berry, Zimmerman, Hersh, Bateman, Felker, Benson, Trostle, Shaffer, Forscht, Fritch, Stauffer, Gilbert, Stover, and Lantz.

Written by Melvin C. Drumm, with aid from history of Northumberland County, April 19, 1917.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
CLINTON COUNTY, PA.

(Avis was formerly known as Oak Grove and Centre Oak.)

When the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad system located shops at what is now Avis, and laid out an extension

distribution yard for the Fall Brook and Beech Creek divisions, a town began to develop rapidly.

The Susquehanna Synod and its West Branch Conference gave attention to this new field very promptly. An appointment was made for a meeting to be held in the Oak Grove school house, June 1st, 1902, to consider the matter of organization. Rev. Dr. J. Yutzey was present and after delivering a sermon called the meeting to order and an organization was effected. I. S. Garner was elected president, J. A. Gisewite, vice president; W. P. Dorman, secretary; Joseph Martin, treasurer. I. S. Garner proposed the name "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church," which was unanimously adopted.

The following were then enrolled as charter members: I. S. Garner, Mrs. I. S. Garner, J. A. and Lavina Guisewite, W. P. and Hannah C. Dorman, Jane Dute, Jos. and Mrs. Jos. Martin, Chas. H. and Mrs. Chas. H. Brobst, Clara J. Conrod, Nellie Earon, Chas. Conrod, Jacob M. Sands, M. J. and Margaret Hanna. The meeting adjourned with the Doxology and Benediction by Dr. Yutzey.

A second congregational meeting was held in the home of Jos. Martin, June 14, 1902, at which a council was elected. I. S. Garner and Joseph Martin were chosen as Elders, and J. A. Guisewite, W. P. Dorman, Chas. H. Brobst, and M. J. Hanna as Deacons. Council organized by the election of W. P. Dorman, secretary, and Jos. Martin, treasurer. A constitution was adopted at this meeting. A building committee was also elected as follows: I. S. Garner, Jos. Martin, and W. P. Dorman. At the evening congregational meeting Rev. J. E. Zimmerman, of Susquehanna University, was elected to become the first pastor of this church.

On Monday morning at 5 o'clock a little company gathered at the church lot, and after singing hymn No. 292 and prayer by Dr. Yutzey ground was broken. The site comprises two lots centrally located upon a corner. One was donated by the Susquehanna Synod and the other by the Oak Grove Loan Improvement Association. They were selected by Drs. Bannen and Griffith.

At a congregational meeting held in the school house, June 22, 1902, conducted by Rev. John H. Barb, D.D., of Hughesville, representing the Synod, it was agreed, that with the concurrence of the Board of Home Missions and the Garman church, a salary of \$600.00 and parsonage should be paid Rev. Zimmerman. The

salary to be apportioned as follows: Trinity church, \$100.00; Board of Home Missions, \$250.00, and Garman church, \$250.00. The joint council was instructed to forward the call. It was also decided to build a church costing about \$1,200.00 to \$1,400.00.

September 14, 1902, a loan of \$500.00 from the Board of Church Extension was authorized. Saturday evening, September 1, 1902, Rev. Fickinger preached in the school house, and on Sun-



Trinity Church, Avis

day morning Rev. J. M. Anspach, D.D., President of Synod, after preaching in the Grove, proceeded with the congregation to the church lot, and with the usual ceremonies, laid the corner stone.

December 28, 1902, a Sunday School was organized with I. S. Garner, superintendent, W. P. Dorman; assistant superintendent, Miss Cora Pennsylv; secretary, Miss Carrie Hanna; assistant secretary; O. J. Dressler, treasurer; Chas. H. Brobst and H. H. Fiedler, librarians, and Mrs. H. H. Fiedler, organist. A Luther League was also organized with Mrs. J. E. Zimmerman, president; Mrs. Margaret Hanna, vice-president; Miss Dressler, re-

cording secretary; Miss Bessie Garner, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Hanna, treasurer.

The church was completed at a cost of \$1,611.27, and was dedicated February 1, 1903. Dr. Yutzey delivered the sermon, and Rev. D. E. Rupley solicited subscriptions. \$458.26 was subscribed. Rev. Zimmerman closed his labors in this pastorate April 1, 1905.

HOLY TRINITY—BERWICK

By REV. C. R. BOTSFORD

The history of Berwick is most interesting. The story of the town goes back to the eighteenth century. The founders of the community were English, but Evan Evans, who laid out the village in 1787, set aside a lot for the Lutheran church. This property was acquired by the General Council branch of our church, and later disposed of for another location.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity was organized January 15, 1893, in the Y. M. C. A. building, by the Rev. Charles M. Aurand, D. D. The congregation worshiped there and in the opera house until December, 1894, when a handsome and churchly edifice was completed. There were 21 charter members and these have increased until at this time the church has about 300 active members. The founders of the church were of heroic mold. They faced great difficulties with determination and sublime faith. Dr. Aurand was instrumental in securing a most valuable lot for the seat of the new church. Through his untiring efforts the building was completed and furnished. He closed his labors December 31, 1898, having served exactly six years.

The second pastor was the Rev. Montraville McHenry Allbeck, who left a successful work at Millville to take up the arduous service of the Berwick mission. He began his labors April, 1899. This pastorate was marked by self-sacrificing toil on the part of pastor and people. Decided progress was made both financially and numerically. The outstanding event of this regime was the establishment in West Berwick of the Grace Mission, the wisdom of which is manifest in the fine church property and noble people

of that successful church. Rev. Allbeck completed his work in the spring of 1904.

In the summer of 1904 the Rev. W. Morgan Cross became pastor. He served the church until the following year, resigning in August, 1905. The church was without a pastor for several months, but the membership was loyal and kept the fires of the congregation burning.



Holy Trinity Church, Berwick

For three months, January-March, 1906, the Rev. John Brown Focht, D. D., served the congregation as a stated supply most acceptably. It was at this time that the burdensome debt was so arranged that its liquidation followed in a few years.

The Rev. Chauncey Robert Botsford entered upon his pastorate July 1, 1906, coming from his first charge—Northumberland. It was during this pastorate that Jehiada's Chest was established at the suggestion of John C. Oberdorf as a means of securing funds with which to pay the debt of the congregation. The simple method was eminently successful, and in January, 1915, the people held a jubilee because of the satisfied obligation. A

legacy of about \$2,000 from Mrs. Mary Irvine was an event of this period. The church became self-supporting July 1, 1913. This pastorate terminated October 1, 1915, when Rev. Botsford became field secretary of Susquehanna University.

The present active and aggressive pastor is the Rev. Charles S. Bottiger, who began his labors in December, 1915. Under his leadership rapid progress has been made. Many persons have been received into church fellowship. The need of enlarged quarters for the growing Sunday School has compelled the church to build, and the beautiful site is now having a large, modern structure added to the original building. This gives Holy Trinity the equipment she needs so much to care for the people who are coming in ever larger numbers to worship and to work.

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST BERWICK, PA.

In the prosecution of his labors as missionary pastor of Holy Trinity Church of Berwick, Rev. M. M. Allbeck made a canvass of the western section of the community. As a result of this canvass and the promise of a building boom for this end of the town a call was issued for the organization of a Sunday School. Permission was granted by the School Board of Briar Creek Township to use the old "White School House" for religious services. The first session of the school was held on May 26, 1901, with fifty-three persons present.

From this Sunday School grew the congregation which was formally organized on May 4, 1902, adopting a constitution and by-laws and taking the name of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of West Berwick, Pa. There were twelve charter members. To these a charter of incorporation was granted by the Courts of Columbia County on July 18, 1902. A lot was purchased at the corner of Arch Street and Fairview Avenue. The cornerstone of the church was laid on September 21, 1902, and on December 28, 1902, the church building was dedicated to the service of God.

Because of the importance of the work demanding such attention as only a resident pastor could give, the founder of this new congregation relinquished his work, preaching his last sermon on April 12, 1903. All the work and labor of founding and taking



Grace Church, West Berwick

care of this congregation for almost two years was rendered by the Rev. M. M. Allbeck without compensation. Great credit belongs to him for his self-sacrificing efforts in the building up of our Zion.

Rev. H. E. Harman was elected as pastor and began his work on April 15, 1903. The community began to enlarge rapidly and the congregation entered upon a period of prosperity with growth in membership and in material things. The Sunday School out-

grew the church building and on September 18, 1904, ground was broken for an addition to the church building for Sunday School purposes. The re-opening and re-dedicatory services were held on January 24, 1905. Other improvements had been made to the church property and the auditorium of the church beautified and refurnished. On July 3, 1905, ground was broken for the fine parsonage which was erected at a cost of \$4,500. This was occupied by the pastor and his family on February 1, 1906. Rev. Harman resigned after nine years of service, leaving the pastorate of Grace Church on February 1, 1912.

The present pastor is Rev. Clarence E. Arnold, who took charge on April 10, 1912. During the present pastorate the church property has been materially improved, the chancel fittingly furnished, the aid received from the Mission Board reduced with the promise of the early assuming of self-support, and the church debt has been almost entirely paid, with all of it covered by subscriptions.

The congregation now has a membership of over two hundred and is possessed of a property worth above \$10,000. The excellent work that has been done in the community in the past is a token of a still larger future for the glory of God and the bringing of the kingdom.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MARTZVILLE, PA.

The history of this congregation, situated in Briar Creek Township, of Columbia County, was never recorded in writing and Minutes of Synods and Church Book reveal very little concerning the congregation's origin and activity. A number of the pastors did not record even their ministerial acts so that their service is merely a matter of tradition. The congregation first met in the brick school house situated below the present location of the church. The first communion service was held on March 3, 1861, at which fifteen communicants were present, twelve of them being of the Martz family from which the community takes its name. The first pastor was Rev. John Swartz, D. D., during

whose pastorate the church building was erected in 1867, it is said. The lot for the church was donated by Abraham Martz and it was by the gifts and industry of the Marts family largely that the church was built. The pastors who have served the congregation so far as they are known are Rev. John Swartz,



St. Paul's Church, Martzville

D. D., Rev. A. H. Shertz, Rev. E. A. Sharretts, D. D., Rev. M. V. Shadow, Rev. J. V. Bodine, Rev. Krebs, Revs. S. N. Carpenter and H. C. Michael as student supplies, Rev. H. E. Harman, and Rev. Clarence E. Arnold from April, 1912, to the present time.

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH. BLOOMSBURG, PA.

BY JOHN EDWARD BYERS.

Historical Sketch.

It has been a difficult matter to obtain absolutely correct information about the earliest days of Lutheranism in Bloomsburg

because the records that are at hand now are very incomplete. We have gleaned from the best sources available the following interesting facts which give us some idea at least of the beginnings and growth and life of this large and influential church in this community. In Bloomsburg as well as throughout Columbia County and elsewhere the pioneers of our faith, in the establishment of our beloved church, underwent many hardships and faced many difficulties. The earliest settlers were for a while without a church and pastor but kept alive in their hearts the spirit of piety and godliness by a devoted use in their homes of the catechism and hymn-book and whatever few other devotional books they happened to possess.

Before any regular organization took place, preaching and some pastoral service were furnished by the frontier missionary as well as by pastors from other towns further east and south who made occasional visits to this locality. The names of some such visiting ministers are Seeley, Sherrets, Plitt, Pauls Baughey, Stork.

For a brief period the Episcopal church of town opened her doors to the Lutherans for their use in public worship. It seems a well authenticated fact that Rev. Frederitze was here as early as 1800 and preached in that church for our people. When for some reason, not now known, the courtesy of this church privilege was denied them, the little band of Lutherans, numbering only 17, heroically resolved to build their church. The structure was to be of logs, and each person offered to furnish his share of the same and deliver them on the ground. The Reformed Church pioneers being in similar need were invited to co-operate in the new church project. The proposition was agreeable to them, so that unitedly in the year 1807 they began to build the original old log church on the hill, now the S. E. corner of First and Centre streets. The cemetery that adjoined still remains.

The name of the church at that time was St. Paul's, which name it bore until the time of the incorporation of the church in 1856 when the name was changed to St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bloomsburg, Pa.

There is little record of the years immediately following. Articles of agreement between the congregations were adopted in May, 1808. Each denomination was to have the use of the church on alternate Sundays. Notwithstanding this, the mem-

bers of both congregations attended all the services, whether Lutheran or Reformed, making their contributions and paying their bills jointly. An annual settlement was made each year at a joint meeting of the two official boards of the church.

Rev. Frederick Plitt, 1808.

The first Lutheran pastor of whom record is found is the Rev. Frederick Plitt, although the same record says that before his coming the Rev. Frederitze was here exercising some care over the Lutheran flock and preaching to the people. In this early period the German language was used exclusively. Later on the English was introduced and used alternately with the German. About 1851 English only was used in the public worship. We have no detailed record of this pastorate.

1809-1829.

There is some uncertainty about the next pastorate. One authority says that Rev. J. Frederick Engle was pastor from 1809 to 1816. Another omits mention of him entirely, and says that the Rev. Peter Kessler came in 1810. There is agreement in the fact that the Rev. Kessler was pastor until late in the twenties, probably until 1829. Naturally little is known about the history of these twenty years.

Rev. Jeremiah Shindle, 1830-1837.

The records show that this pastorate was a very earnest and aggressive one and that the numerical strength of the congregation increased very considerably.

Rev. Wm. J. Eyer, 1837-1844; 1846-1850.

Of Rev. Eyer's pastorate we have little knowledge more than that he was an active, faithful, devoted pastor who won the esteem of the entire community and endeared himself especially to the hearts of his own people. His recall after an absence of two years is proof of the high regard in which he was held and of the appreciation of his labors on the part of the congregation.

Rev. Charles Witmer, 1844-1845.

Rev. M. J. Alleman, 1845-1846.

Two short pastorates followed the first of Rev. Eyer. The one was that of Rev. Chas. Witmer who had frequently assisted



St. Matthew's Church, Bloomsburg

Rev. Eyer. He lived at Catawissa and was pastor for about one year.

The other was that of Rev. M. J. Alleman who also served about one year. He lived in Danville. After these two short pastorates the congregation turned again, as stated above, to the Rev. Eyer who had served them so acceptably before for a period of seven years.

Rev. William Weaver, 1851-1853.

We have no record of the work of these two years. After the departure of Rev. Weaver the church was without a pastor for nearly two years. This long vacancy proved a very unprofitable experience for the church and its development.

Rev. E. A. Sharretts, 1854-1859.

Rev. Sharretts came highly recommended to the disheartened congregation and began his ministry on April 1st, 1854. Dr. P. A. Heiman in his anniversary sermon as pastor in 1892 writes thus of him and his ministry here: "This was his first pastorate. He found a scattered and disheartened flock, and it was with difficulty that their new and small pastor rallied them to the work. But he proved a very David among them. Slaying the giant Despair, and gathering the people together until he gained their confidence and esteem, he impressed upon them the necessity of building a church of their own where they could have service every Sabbath—a building that would be more in keeping with the progress of the times and the enterprise of the people. But this was a Herculean task. The people were poor, the town was small, the membership of the church only about one hundred." Mr. J. Eyer gave impulse to the project of agreeing to give the lot and a good subscription besides. Jacob Eyer, John Grotz, Philip Unangst, Jacob Beidleman, John Kressler were the building committee. The new church was dedicated Sept. 20th, 1857. It was the largest and best in the town at that time. Great credit was due both pastor and people.

Rev. J. R. Dimm, 1859-1867.

This was Dr. Dimm's first pastorate. Very early he saw the importance of paying off the indebtedness that remained on the new church. This work required tactful and persistent effort.

But after such effort and with much self-denial the debt was entirely paid. The pastorate of Dr. Dimm was made trying by reason of the war feeling which ran high in Bloomsburg and Columbia county. The situation was carefully handled, however, and Dr. Dimm carried away with him the love and esteem of the people as well as a record of splendid and successful work done.

Rev. B. F. Alleman, 1867-1872.

As did his predecessors Dimm and Sharretts, so did Dr. Alleman find in Bloomsburg his first pastorate. Steady progress characterized the five years of his ministry. The Sunday School reached a total of 300 members and a fine large library was secured. The church was renovated and a gallery built in the rear of the auditorium. In 1871 a parsonage was purchased. It was located on the corner of Third and West streets. Loved by all Dr. Alleman left for another field in 1872.

Rev. J. R. Williams, 1872-1875.

Rev. John McCron, 1875-1877.

Rev. O. D. S. Marclay, 1877-1881.

Each of these pastors did a faithful work and had the joy of seeing the church move forward in numbers and usefulness during their ministry. The parsonage burned during Dr. McCron's time entailing a big loss for both pastor and congregation. Large additions to membership marked the ministry of both Rev. Williams and Marclay. Although young in years and exceedingly useful in the church, Rev. Marclay was stricken with a serious illness while pastor here, and died on Jan. 10, 1881, aged 39 years.

Rev. F. P. Manhart, 1881-1889.

During the vacancy following Rev. Marclay's death, Rev. Manhart was frequently called upon to preach as a supply. He was called later as pastor and accepted the call. He served faithfully and successfully for eight years. The membership increased to 350. Various changes and improvements were made at a cost of more than a \$1,000. A pipe organ was secured; fine pulpit and altar furniture were placed; and a baptismal font was given. His was a splendid work.

Rev. P. A. Heilman, 1890-1896.

Almost the first move was to build a new parsonage. This was done upon the present location at a cost of about \$4,000. The church again came in for renovation and some changes, especially in the lower room. In 1893 stained glass windows were purchased. About this time the rear gallery was removed and a smaller one was placed in the front of the church. The church now was well organized in all the departments. And all organizations helped greatly in the work. On account of ill health Rev. Heilman resigned on May 1, 1896.

Rev. M. E. McLinn, 1896-1903.

Neither church nor parsonage buildings needed attention now. But Rev. McLinn did a splendid work in clearing up all indebtedness. His was a very devoted ministry. His pastoral work was most assiduous. Under his leadership the congregation continued to grow and do a fine work. It was of large influence in all the Christian activities of the town.

Rev. John Edward Byers, 1903-Dec., 1916.

The present pastor began his ministry here June 1st, 1903. He found a church well organized in every way and second in numbers in Bloomsburg. The same is true of it today, although the numbers are larger as far as all departments are concerned. During the first year of his pastorate a large new pipe organ was placed. An addition to the rear of the church was built to accommodate the same. The church was repapered and carpeted about the same time. One of the things this pastorate will be remembered for is the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the building of the first Lutheran church in Bloomsburg; also the 50th of the building of the present edifice. The important feature of the occasion was the starting of a fund for a new church. The need of this in the near future was evident to all. About \$7,000 was subscribed toward the fund. Since the anniversary the need and desire for a new church has been growing and several splendid contributions have been added to the fund. Growth has come to the church in every way. The pastor has tried to keep abreast of all the best in the way of methods and organization. The people are active and interested. The church is recognized as a powerful religious force in the community.

Church Organizations.

The congregation has always been ready for the advanced methods and ways that were wise and good. Early in the 1830's the Sunday School was organized. It has always been a prosperous school, growing in numbers and developing in efficiency to the present time.

The Ladies' Aid Society has also an honorable record as one of the Church's very helpful auxiliaries. Their help is principally along financial lines; and in this field they have wrought wonders almost a good many times. This society is now a very active and successful agency in the church proving itself of indispensable value in the new church project.

The Women's Missionary Society was organized with the first in the Synod, and has maintained a front rank position always. For several years it was the largest and strongest society in the Synod. It is yet one of the first.

Young People's Societies were organized early in the history of such movements and have been always very active and helpful. Besides two C. E. Societies at present we have also two organizations among the young people along missionary lines.

The Brotherhood and Adult Bible classes are trying to care for the men of the congregation and doing it with much success. All in all we have today a well organized church in every way, one that is going forward to larger things, one that is taking its place in the community as a religious force of great value.

The Church has given to the ministry and Missionary work the following persons: Rev. Thomas Pritchard, deceased; Rev. T. B. Birch, Ph. D., Springfield, Ohio; Rev. Wm. L. Crist; Rev. Frank M. Traub, A. M., Liberia, Africa; Miss Mary E. Lowe, Missionary, Guntur, India; Rev. Karl E. Irvin, Dubois, Pa.

BUCKHORN CHARGE.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, NEW COLUMBIA.

This is a union church which has been used by four denominations. In 1832 a stone, one-story church building was erected in what is now the grave yard, just to the right of the gate. It

served as a church, a school house and as a community center. It might well have done service in these early frontier days as a fort. Prof. G. W. Styer, of Montoursville, has in his possession one of the first chandeliers used in the old church, in which



St. Peter's Church, New Columbia

candles were burned. John Leidy, a Revolutionary Hero, was the first person buried in the grave yard.

A new building was erected in 1870 and dedicated on December eighth of that year. The following ministers took part in the dedicatory service: D. J. Waller, A. B. Jack, John Thomas, Rev. Mehr.

In 1874 sheds were built for the horses. In 1910 new carpet was purchased and the church painted inside and out. The plat-

form was lowered and enlarged, a metal ceiling installed and new pulpit furnishings were bought.

An active C. E. Society was organized in 1890.

The cemetery is one of the best known in the county and has an historic record. In it repose the bodies of nineteen soldiers who fought in the following wars: Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican and the War of the Rebellion. A cannon which had been captured from the Confederates was presented by the government to the Cemetery Association and has been mounted at the main entrance.

Only two congregations now worship here, the Presbyterians and Lutherans.

Very little indeed is known of the early pastors. Among the list of older names, however, we find those of Revs. Seely, Plitt, Pauls, Cramer, Baughy, Eyer, Willard, Hinkley, Ograt, Hornberger, and Leshner.

It is comparatively easy to locate the pastors since 1867 as many are still living and some are still serving pastorates in this and other synods. The names of pastors since that time will be found in the history of Christ's Church of the same Charge.

ST. PAUL'S, NEAR DANVILLE.

Rev. Elias Swartz in the winter of 1842 laid the foundation for this congregation by having revival services in one of the nearby school houses. Occasional appointments were filled by him and his successors.

Rev. F. Ruthrauf, pastor at Milton, also served the church in Danville and supplied this as a station.

Rev. M. J. Alleman, who came to Danville in 1845, organized a church and prepared a constitution for the same in 1848. A one-story brick church was built in that year. Rev. Reuben Weiser had charge of the cornerstone laying. The dedication took place in October of the same year. Rev. Dr. Yeomans assisted the pastor at that service.

Rev. P. Willard preached in the new church from 1850 to 1856; it belonged to the charge in which were placed Shamokin and Danville. During the pastorate of Rev. Willard 65 infants and 11 adults were baptized and 59 were confirmed.

From 1856-60 Rev. J. M. Stover had charge, preaching every

two weeks. Following him were Revs. Eli Huber, P. P. Lane, E. A. Sharretts, George M. Rhodes, and Uriel Graves.

Rev. M. L. Shindel served the church for twenty years. At his resignation the church became part of the Buckhorn Charge, having the same ministers as those given in connection with Christ's Church at Buckhorn.

During the pastorate of Rev. P. B. Fassold extensive improvements were made. Large modern sheds for the horses were



St. Paul's Church, Frosty Valley

built during the pastorate of Rev. G. D. Strail.

During the present pastorate the church edifice has been both renovated and remodeled.

A large Sunday School adds greatly to the success of the Lord's work at this point.

CANBY LUTHERAN CHURCH, MILLERSTOWN.

On Nov. 18th, 1859, in the school house at Millerstown, Rev. E. A. Sharrets, of Espy, organized a Lutheran congregation. At times the church has been a great power in the community, at others it seems to have been in a semi-dormant state. While

no Sunday School is maintained at present, it was formerly noted for that very feature. The pastors have been the same as those named in connection with this charge elsewhere, except that while it belonged to the Espy Charge Revs. Manifold, Minemier, and Rupley spent several years each and while Rev. P. B. Fassold was pastor of the Buckhorn Charge.



Canby Church, Millerstown.

Improvements were made during the pastorate of Rev. G. D. Strail, and the whole building renovated during the present pastorate.

The church edifice was built in 1861.

CHRIST'S CHURCH, BUCKHORN.

Rev. E. A. Sharretts in 1859 organized the scattered Lutheran families of the community into a congregation by holding a very successful revival meeting. There were sixty-three names on the charter. The services were held in the union church which is now used exclusively by a Methodist congregation.

On August 1st, 1869, Rev. J. M. Rice, a returned missionary from Africa, came on the field. A reorganization after the rav-

ages of the war was effected on August 20th, and Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church became a part of the Espy Charge. The cornerstone of the church building was laid in 1869, Rev. Hemperly, of Selinsgrove, officiating.

The church was dedicated on the 29th of November, by Rev. E. A. Sharretts, then President of Synod.

In 1872 Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder was called to be the regular pastor. His chief success was along the line of Catechetical Work



Christ's Church, Buckhorn

and Revival services. He married Miss Creveling, of Espy, and resigned in 1875.

Two years later Rev. William Kelly, who had studied at one time for the Catholic priesthood, took charge.

Again in 1878 Rev. E. A. Sharretts took charge of the work, remaining eight years. Large sheds for the horses were built at that time.

Rev. M. O. T. Sahn followed with a pastorate of two years. Rev. A. R. Glaze took charge of the work on Memorial Day, 1889. A new organ was purchased and the church prospered under his care.

In 1892 Rev. C. W. Sechrist succeeded him as pastor. He was the first to occupy the present parsonage. A large barn was built on the premises and a barber shop in the side yard was converted into a study for him. The Charge was then divided, Espy and Millertown withdrawing and the church at Millville and St. Paul's near Danville being added.

Rev. P. B. Fassold was the first pastor called to the new field. He began his work Nov. 1st, 1894. The parsonage debt was paid and a silver communion set was purchased.

Rev. W. H. Hilbish had charge from 1901 to 1903.

Rev. William J. Wagner took charge of the work in the same year. A new roof was put on the church and on part of the parsonage. New heaters were placed in the Sunday School room.

In 1910 Rev. G. D. Strail took up the work. Improvements were made to the parsonage property and new pulpit furniture of seven pieces was purchased.

After a year's vacancy the present pastor, Rev. E. A. Chamberlin took charge. Both parsonage and church have been completely renovated and God's work is prospering along all lines.

BETHANY, MONTOURSVILLE.

BY MR. J. R. HUTSON.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville, Pennsylvania, was organized about the year 1830, the first services being held in the octagonal stone school house which stood on the north side of the road leading to Muncy, just east of Arch street, and in the corner of the old cemetery which is now abandoned. This soon became too small for services and eight years later, in 1838, the first church building in Montoursville, the White Church, was erected near the octagonal school house by the Lutherans and Presbyterians.

It was built upon a plot of ground given for the purpose by J. Andrew Sheets. The funds necessary for the erection of the building and the furnishing of it was provided for by public subscription. The building was erected by John S. Konkle, a

carpenter, he receiving a sum of two hundred dollars for his work. The building has been well preserved and is at present occupied as a dwelling.



Bethany Church, Montoursville

The Rev. George Parsons, of Muncy Charge, supplied the congregation with preaching until May, 1852, when he resigned. The congregation numbered 52 at that time. On the first Sunday in May, 1853, Rev. Philip Sheeder was elected to the pas-

torate. Following him the church had no regular pastor for some time and became disorganized until finally under the direction of Rev. A. R. Horn, D. D., of Williamsport, the Rev. J. L. Smithdeal took up the work in May, 1866, and re-organized it with a membership of about 27. He served the charge until February, 1868, when Rev. J. G. Griffith began his work in March, 1868.

August 31, 1869, the church was incorporated under the name of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, of Montoursville. The incorporators were William Lewars, Michael Horlacher, James Strong, David Bubb, James S. Lewars, Leonard Buck, John Bruner, and J. G. Griffith.

An agreement was entered into Dec. 22, 1869, between the trustees of the Lutheran and the trustees of the Presbyterian Church to sell the White Church and build the present Lutheran Church.

The plot of ground upon which the church is situated was bought from Daniel Streibeigh in February, 1870, and was formerly known as the Montoursville Tavern Stand. The purchase price of the ground \$850.00 was paid for by the ladies of the Church, who were organized into an Aid Society. The means they used in raising the funds were similar to those used to-day: quilting bees, suppers, and so forth.

The corner-stone was laid May 15, 1870, by the Masonic Order. The sermon being preached by Rev. J. R. Dimin, D. D., assisted by Rev. Marr, of the Presbyterian Church. The lecture room of the building was completed in the autumn of 1870 but the auditorium was not completed until later, being dedicated May, 1878.

One of the most efficient organizations of the Church is the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society. The first organization was effected in May, 1881, but the first record of regular meetings is in 1883 and from that time the society has grown in interest and activity and now numbers 55 members with 28 honorary members and 10 life members. The society always responded willingly to all calls made by the General Executive Committee and also has been very helpful in the local church work, aiding in every effort for improvement. The meetings are held regularly, the first Thursday of every month and the General Text Book is used at every meeting.



White Church, Montoursville, in which the Synod was organized in 1867

In 1883 the parsonage on Washington Street was purchased from Everhart Plankenhorn.

Although the church was incorporated under the name of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Montoursville, the Presbyterians were given the right of regular worship.

In 1883 they built for themselves a church and withdrew to enjoy the blessings of their own church home, thereby severing their relations with the Lutherans.

In 1897 the pipe organ was purchased and a year later in 1898 electric lights were placed in the church.

In 1901 at the beginning of Rev. W. C. Dunlap's pastorate the union with Emanuel Church was severed and the new name "Bethany" was given to the Montoursville Church. The steam heating plant was installed when the church was remodeled in 1901.

In 1911 the annex was built to accommodate the Sunday School which had outgrown its former quarters. We now have a Sunday School fully equipped, graded, and doing efficient work, a great factor in our church.

From the close of Rev. George Parson's pastorate in 1852 to the present time we have had twelve pastors:

Rev. Philip Sheeder, from May, 1853.

Rev. J. L. Smithdeal, from May, 1866, to February, 1868.

Rev. J. G. Griffith, from March 1, 1868, to March 1, 1873.

Rev. I. P. Neff, from March 14, 1873, to March 14, 1880.

Rev. A. N. Warner, from March 15, 1880, to June 15, 1882.

Rev. I. P. Zimmerman, from April 1, 1883, to Sept. 1, 1887.

Rev. J. R. Sample, from Sept. 1, 1887, to Aug. 27, 1893.

Rev. T. J. Yost, from Jan. 1, 1894, to May 1, 1895.

Rev. W. L. Rutherford, from Sept. 16, 1895, to Dec. 1, 1900.

Rev. W. C. Dunlap, from March 1, 1901, to July 1, 1911.

Rev. E. M. Gearhart, from Oct. 1, 1911, to April 1, 1916.

Rev. O. E. Sunday, from Sept. 1, 1916, to the present.

ELYSBURG PASTORATE.

By REV. J. W. SHANNON, D. D.

The boundaries of this pastorate have varied very much. Shamokin, Catawissa and Mt. Carmel have at times been part of it. In 1876 Jacob's, St. Peter's and St. John's were united and have composed the pastorate ever since.

In its earliest years it was part of that large pastorate which included nearly all of the congregations on the territory now covered by Synod.

JACOB'S CHURCH.

Jacob's is the oldest church in the pastorate, and one of the oldest in the Synod. The first ministers mentioned are Revs. Lehman, Getz, Stock, and Ulrick, all serving the church prior to



Jacob's Church, Elysburg Charge

1812. The earliest date in the cemetery adjoining the church is 1793.

The first building, a school house, was erected probably before

1790. Mr. Stock, afterwards Rev. Carl Stock, is mentioned as the first teacher, possibly doing some work as pastor.

Rev. Stock preached also at Catawissa, Sunbury, Milton, Follmer's and Muncy Creek; whether at all of these places at the same time, as occasionally during our pastorate, we do not know. The Halle Reports at one place credit him to Sunbury, Catawissa, and Follmer's.

Rev. J. P. Shindel came in 1812. He evidently very soon began planning for a church building, as the cornerstone of the first church was laid on August 28, 1814, and the church dedicated August 16, 1816.

Church and school house stood side by side until about 1895, when the school house was torn down. Three school houses had been erected on the same site, two by the church and one by the township. The cost of the church was \$3,000.00, a large sum for that day and was in the usual architecture of the early German churches. Rev. Shindel continued as pastor until a few years before his death.

Rev. P. Willard from Danville served the church for a few years, beginning with 1850, and Rev. C. J. Ehrhart from Shamokin between the years 1853 and 1857. Rev. J. F. Wampole was called in 1858 and served until 1868, preaching also during part of the time at Shamokin and Catawissa. During his first year St. John's church was built.

Rev. J. A. Adams was called to the pastorate in 1868, leaving in 1883. For several years he lived at, and preached in, Mt. Carmel.

In 1870 the old church was replaced by the present substantial two-story building, at a cost of about \$6,000.00.

He was succeeded by Rev. J. K. Bricker, who remained three years.

In October, 1887, the present pastor, Rev. J. W. Shannon, D. D., was called.

In 1893 the parsonage was built at a cost of about \$1,500.00 in money, the members doing much of the work and all of the hauling without pay.

Jacob's Church is locally called "Reed's" Church because of the prominence of that family in the church from its organization.

Jacob Reed settled near the church in 1774; his successors giving his name "Jacob" to the church.

ST. PETER'S.

St. Peter's, like Jacob's, is a Union Church—Lutheran and Reformed. The first church was built in the second decade of the last century; a building which at some time in its early history was painted blue, and the "Blue" church it has been ever since.

St. Peter's and Jacob's have always been together and have been served by the same pastors.



St. Peter's Church, Elysburg Charge

The present building was erected in 1863, while Rev. Wampole was pastor and is a substantial brick building.

Three families, the Leisenring, Adams, and Dimmick families—have been prominent in the church for many years.

ST. JOHN'S.

This church was built by some members of Jacob's Church, who found it burdensome to travel the long distance to the mother church. It was a plain brick building; dedicated January 24, 1858, and cost, when completed, \$800.00. Their thrift and foresight is seen in the fact that the congregation was not organized until February 14, 1858, nearly a month after the church was dedicated.

Twenty-eight names appear on the list of charter members, 20 of whom bore the name Vought. The family has always been prominent in the church. For 50 years the first church

served the congregation, then was torn down to give place to the present beautiful, substantial brick building.

Three months after the dedication every cent of indebtedness incurred was paid. This means much when it is known that the membership was but 65, and the cost of the church \$7,000.00.



St. John's Church, Elysburg Charge

The congregation for a few years was a part of the Catawissa pastorate, re-uniting with Jacob's and St. Peter's in 1876, since which time the three have composed the Elysburg pastorate.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NORTHUMBERLAND, PA.

On August 27th, 1772, Mr. John Lowden and Mr. William Patterson donated the lot upon which St. John's Church stands for the purpose of a Union Church building. Northumberland was then a small borough and nothing was done apparently until 1817 when a two-story brick building was erected by a small body of Lutherans, Episcopalians and Reformed people. Mr. John Richstine was architect and foreman of the work. The cornerstone was laid on July 6, 1817, and on August 30, 1818, the building was dedicated. At the dedicatory services the Rev. J. P. Shindle, pastor of Zion Church, at Sunbury, represented the Lutheran Church. Rev. Hendel, of Lebanon, represented the Reformed Church, and Rev. Robt. F. W. Smith the Presbyterian.

Rev. Shindel was called as the first Lutheran pastor. He accepted the call and served it with Zion church at Sunbury. Rev. Martin Bruner was called by the Reformed people.

Rev. Shindel continued as pastor until 1823, at which time the church became financially embarrassed because of a debt of three hundred eighty-five dollars and six cents still due the contractor. Appeals were made for funds but of no avail. Suit was brought by the contractor and on June 16, 1823, at sheriff's sale, the property was bought by Mr. Hugh Bellas, who deeded it to the Lutheran, Reformed, Episcopal and Unitarian congregations.

In 1834 the church property became the property of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches alone. They jointly called the Rev. E. Meyer, a Reformed minister of Danville, who served both until in 1839. Upon his resignation both congregations appear to have disbanded.

During the year 1847 the Rev. R. Weiser re-organized the Lutheran people with the following officers: John Leisenring and Henry Wenck, trustees; John Diehl and Henry Wenck, elders; and Samuel Willard and Michael Barnhart, deacons. Rev. Weiser preached occasionally but no regular services were held until 1848 when Rev. M. J. Alleman took charge and remained until 1850. He continued as a supply, however, until July, 1852.

At this point the records are not clear, but in 1858 the Rev. Peter Born, D. D., pastor of Zion Church at Sunbury, became pastor. From this time until 1871, St. John's Church formed a part of the Sunbury charge. It was during the pastorate of Dr. Born that the remnant of the Reformed congregation united with the Lutheran congregation. Serving the Sunbury Charge following Dr. Born were the following: Revs. P. Rizer, M. Rhodes, D. D., and G. W. Hemperley. After 1871 St. John's congregation became a separate charge and was served as follows:

Rev. E. E. Berry, 1871, to April, 1876.

Rev. E. B. Killinger, Sept., 1876, to August, 1884.

Rev. J. A. Koser, Jan., 1885, to July, 1888.

Rev. A. N. Warner, D. D., Dec., 1888, to June, 1898.

Rev. C. R. Botsford, July, 1898, to Aug., 1906.

Rev. H. C. Michael, Oct., 1906, to July, 1916.

Rev. I. S. Sassaman, Nov., 1916, to the present time.

The present church edifice, a substantial brick structure, was erected during the pastorate of the Rev. E. B. Killinger, costing eleven thousand dollars. The cornerstone was laid on June 2, 1878, with appropriate services. Rev. Dr. S. Domer preached the sermon. Other ministers present were: Reverends G. Parson, E. H. Leisenring, J. E. Honeycutt, the resident pastors of Sunbury, and Rev. W. H. Gotwald, then president of our Synod.

On Feb. 16, 1879, the church was dedicated to the worship of the Triune God. Rev. J. W. Goodlin preached the sermon and Rev. Menges had charge of the service of offerings. Others present were: Reverends Parsons, Shindel, Hooper, Criley, Manhart, Heilman, from out of town, and Rev. Fulk of the local Presbyterian Church; Rev. Drum, of the M. E., and Rev. Henshy, of the Baptist.

When Rev. Koser became the pastor in 1885 the church was still under a heavy indebtedness. With a congregation somewhat discouraged because of several reverses a heroic effort was launched to raise a sufficient amount to satisfy the mortgage holder. The people responded liberally and the debt was reduced by more than two thousand dollars. This was the beginning of a new and better life for St. John's. The people felt encouraged and had a mind to work. The work went on and during the ten years' pastorate of the late Dr. Warner when the entire indebtedness was met. During these years of financial progress of the church she also made great strides in the increase of membership and benevolence.

On June 17, 1901, ground was broken for a new Sunday School room to accommodate the growing work of the church. The dedicatory services were held on June 15, 1902. Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D., preached and had charge of the service of offerings. The cost of the addition to the church, together with a new steam heat plant, was \$7,000.00. The first Sunday School service was held in the new quarters on March 2nd, 1902, with an attendance of two hundred and fifty present. From the Lutheran Observer of June 20, 1902, over the name of Dr. Weber we quote the following: "The history of this congregation for the past twelve years is worthy of note. They have paid a debt of \$5,000.00, organized two country congregations from their number, erected and paid for a church for each of these congregations, purchased and paid for their parsonage and now dedicated this with only a

few thousand dollars unpaid, but provided for. Surely, under God, they have done great things, whereof we are glad."

Early in 1907 the auditorium was frescoed and the woodwork retouched, new chandeliers, carpet, book racks, and other improvements were made at a cost of \$1,100.00.

On May 22 a beautiful Moller pipe organ, costing \$3,485, was dedicated.

During the year 1913 the Sunday School, having outgrown its home, an addition was added that increased the seating capacity from 250 to 750. The room was made two story and extended from 50x60 to 60x75. Appropriate services of dedication were held on November 2nd, 1913.

The present enrollment of the Sunday School is 764. The congregation numbers 430 communicant members and 584 confirmed members.

The heads of the church organization at present are: Sunday School superintendent, Mr. Charles Steele; Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, Miss Claire Schalvin; Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. Tillie Brown; Luther League, Mr. Daniel Diehl.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, CAMERON, PA.

NORTHUMBERLAND CHARGE.

This congregation was organized on Nov. 13, 1896, by the Rev. A. N. Warner, then pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church of Northumberland, Pa. Officers were at once elected and application made for incorporation and a charter. The officers were: Elders, A. P. Mertz and Wm. Vastine; deacons, John D. Klase and Joseph Diehl; trustees, L. P. Park and W. H. Diehl.

Mr. Wm. Vastine donated the church site. The following were the building committee: L. H. Park, Joseph Diehl, Sr., John D. Klase.

The majority of the charter members of the church were formerly members of St. John's Church in Northumberland. The membership was small but energetic and enthusiastic. The building was dedicated on June 6, 1897.

Appropriate services attended the dedication. The Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D., of Sunbury, and president of the Synod, preached

at the morning service. Five hundred and twenty-five dollars were needed to meet the entire indebtedness, and \$537 were secured at the morning service. At the evening service enough cash was raised to purchase an organ. Others present who delivered addresses were: the pastor, Rev. A. N. Warner and Rev. J. A. Demoyer, and M. L. Shindel, D. D.

Rev. C. R. Botsford became pastor in July, 1898, and served



Grace Church, Northumberland Charge

until he resigned the pastorate to accept a call to Berwick on Aug. 1, 1906.

Rev. H. C. Michael became the pastor of the Northumberland Charge in October, 1906, but served as the active pastor only for about one year. During the remaining years of his pastorate in Northumberland this church was served by associate pastors and substitutes. Those who served as associate pastors were Rev. H. D. Hoover and Rev. Prof. Follmer of Susquehanna University, and during the years 1911 to 1916 the pulpit was supplied by students from Susquehanna University.

The present pastor is Rev. I. S. Sassaman, and the membership numbers 37.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
POINT TOWNSHIP.

NORTHUMBERLAND CHARGE.

A meeting of the Lutheran people of Tuckahoe was held at No. 2 schoolhouse on November 27, 1896. Nearly all the people present were members of St. John's. A committee composed of Messrs. H. F. Geise, J. F. Dagle, Albert Hackenberg, and Peter



St. John's Church, Northumberland

Clemens were selected to recommend a site for a church building near to No. 2 school house.

At a similar meeting held on Dec. 11, 1896, with Rev. A. N. Warner presiding, the congregation was organized with the following officers: Elders, Albert Hackenberg and J. F. Dagle; deacons, A. S. Hoffman and J. R. Fulton; and trustees, H. F. Geise and Peter Clemens.

The committee for a church site reported that Mr. B. I. Bidelsbach would donate the ground. The site was at once agreed upon and the following building committee appointed: Messrs. Albert Hackenberg, Peter Clemens, J. F. Dagle, H. F. Geise.

The church, 24x36, with a Sunday School room of 16x20, separated from the main room with sliding doors, was dedicated for service on July 1, 1897. The choir of St. John's rendered the music for the occasion. Rev. P. Born, D. D., offered prayer, and Rev. H. H. Weber, of York, preached the sermon and had charge of the service of offerings. The church cost \$1,380.00. But \$535 was needed on the day of dedication. This amount was easily raised.

Trinity, with Grace Church built at the same time, were combined with St. John's to form what still remains the Northumberland Charge. Dr. Warner was assisted in the work of the charge by Rev. C. R. Botsford who was then a student at Susquehanna University. When Rev. Warner resigned, Rev. Botsford assumed all the duties of the whole pastorate from July, 1898, to Aug., 1906.

In October, 1906, Rev. H. C. Michael became pastor of the charge, but did not regularly preach here except during the first year. In 1907 because of the strain of constantly growing work, Rev. H. D. Hoover was elected associate pastor and regularly preached here and at Grace until June of 1909. Dr. Follmer succeeded him and served both churches for about a year and a-half. From that time until Nov. of 1916 the theological students of Susquehanna University supplied under the oversight of Rev. Michael.

November 1st, 1916, Rev. I. S. Sassaman became pastor of the charge and has been doing the preaching and pastoral work of the whole charge. The present membership is 42.

EMANUEL CHARGE.

EMANUELS

The history of Emanuel's is similar to that of other churches and their communities. Previous to the year 1878 the folks had been accustomed to having short notice of preaching services in the old Union School House. Different men of the Methodist Episcopal Church had been coming there and preaching, but for some reason the interest failed and so did the attendance and they transferred the place of worship to Fairview School House

which is located about two miles farther east. Then it was in 1878 that some of the older members of the community decided that because their parents and forefathers had belonged to the Lutheran Church in Germany they would seek the services of a Lutheran minister. A committee was appointed to wait upon Rev. I. P. Neff, then serving on the Montoursville charge. They secured his services and from 1878 to 1880 he preached to them in the school house. Shortly after he began to preach the congregation was organized and called Emanuel's because Bro.



Immanuel's Church, near Williamsport

Emanuel Pidcoe was one of the foremost leaders in the work of organization. The list of charter members contains the names of Pidcoe, King, Follmer, Hagerman, Wheeland, Hartman, Strieby. After Dr. Neff left they secured the services of the Rev. A. N. Warner and were also united to the Montoursville charge. He served them but a very short time, but during his pastorate the membership increased and he was succeeded by the Rev. I. P. Zimmerman in 1882. After laboring for a few years the church membership had increased and at a council meeting held on March 25, 1886, they unanimously agreed to build a church.

Accordingly the plans were laid and everybody was set to work to help realize their fondest hopes and prayers. May 30, 1886, saw the cornerstone laid and dedicated and in the same year services were held in the church. The congregation now had a permanent place in which they could worship God as their forefathers had. Two years after the completion of the church or in 1888 Rev. Zimmerman had accepted a call to another charge and Rev. J. R. Sample came on the charge. He served his people faithfully for six years, during which time many of the younger people were added to the church. He was succeeded in 1894 by Rev. Yost, who served only about a year and was in turn succeeded by Rev. W. L. Rutherford, who served about four years.

During all these years Emanuel's remained with Montoursville charge but in February 22, 1903, arrangements were made to join Trinity at Huntersville, and St. James, at Halls, thus forming a separate charge, with the minister residing at Montoursville. For a while the different churches in the charge had supplies. About 1901 Rev. W. H. Derr, who was then a student in Susquehanna Theological Seminary, began to supply and did so until he became their regular pastor and served in that capacity until 1906. After he left the charge had again to resort to securing supplies. Because of the absence of a resident minister some of the younger folks failed to receive Christian instruction in Catechism, etc., and so went to other churches. It was not until 1911 that they again secured the services of a regular minister in the person of Rev. J. B. Guiney, who served for four years. The charge is at present supplied by a student from Susquehanna Theological Seminary.

There are enough people living within a radius of three miles to place the church membership back to its original standing. The church is again making efforts to regain some of its lost members and with the help of Almighty God will within a few years be at work as strong as ever.

TRINITY.

What is known as the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is situated about one mile from the former Post Office of Huntersville, in Mill Creek Township, in Lycoming County. In the year 1846 Rev. Geo. Schultz was then serving the Muncy Creek

charge, these people decided to build themselves a church and Bro. Samuel Gortner came forward with an offer of a lot on his farm. The committee was appointed and resolutions were drawn up. They started to secure funds and to build the church, and May 17, 1846, saw the cornerstone dedicated. In it were the resolutions of the committee, the Lutheran and Heidelberg Catechisms. The church was built by the members of the Lutheran and German Reformed Church. The church was built on the right hand side of the road, or where the cemetery now is located. The structure was made of logs and hence the church received the name of the "Old Log Church." This building served its purpose for twenty-four years and at a council meeting held Dec. 13, 1869, they decided that it was too uncomfortable for use and accordingly they decided to build a new church. A subscription committee was appointed consisting of Rev. U. Myers, Bros. Geo. Jones and David Gortner. In a few weeks they had about \$1,000 subscribed and at the next council meeting they appointed the building committee consisting of Bros. Joseph Rynearson, David Gortner and H. Ellis Nevel.

The church they now intended to build was to be bigger and better so they went around and inspected churches and presently drew up plans that materialized in the present church. They decided to build across the road. The present location is better adapted for a church than the old one was. The church was completed in the year 1870 and dedicated to God's services and has been in use ever since by the congregation.

From the earliest history of the church up to the year 1903 the church had been connected with the Muncy Creek charge, and consequently they had men that became leaders of the Lutheran Church. The list of men that served the church is incomplete but such men as these served at some time or another: Rev. Geo. Schultz, Rev. P. Sheeder, Rev. Barnets, Rev. Geo. Parsons, Rev. J. L. Smithdeal, Rev. Uriah Myers, Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder, and Rev. Geo. Eicholtz.

From the year 1903 up to the present time the church has been connected with the Emanuel charge; this charge having its own minister.

ST. JAMES.

In about the year 1842, in the old Smoke Hill School House, about a mile north of where the present church now stands, the

present congregation was organized. For about twenty-five years the congregation worshiped in this school house and were supplied by such men as they could get to preach. After the community grew larger they decided to build a church at a suitable point, where folks could come from all around. Michael Keebler and his wife, then being some of the oldest members of the community, gave them a lot and burying ground for the sum of \$50.00. The people worshiping in the school house were Lutherans and German Reformed, as one found in quite a few places at that time. From this group they appointed Jacob Snyder, Jacob Drick, and Jacob Houser to be the building committee and see to the securing of funds either in lumber, work, or money and also to the erection of the building in which they were nobly assisted by all the members of the congregation and the year of 1867 saw the building completed.

In the same year that the congregation moved into their new building one of the largest classes in the history of the church was confirmed. The class contained 29 members, some of whom are still worshiping in the same church. The records show large classes were confirmed each spring and many other congregations now have in their membership men and women who received their first religious instructions under the able ministers who served those people.

When the congregation was organized it joined the Pennsylvania Synod and remained with them until Oct. 7, 1888, when at a congregational meeting they decided to join the Susquehanna Synod of the General Synod, Rev. J. R. Sample being the pastor at the time.

The church has been a center for all good activities in that community ever since it was built. The district is an agricultural one and hence the members have great distances to drive, but nevertheless they come out for Sunday School and the preaching services.

The church was supplied for years by men from the Montoursville charge until it united with Emanuel's and Trinity at Huntersville and since then the charge has had its own regular minister.

After the church was built they decided to name it St. Jacob's as there were three Jacobs on the building committee, but they

were told that there was no St. Jacob in Bible-times, and the name was then changed to St. James.

The growth of the church has been regular, and many are the hearts that have there found peace under the leadership of such ministers as Rev. Shultz, Rev. Jacob Albert, Early, Rickert, Rev. S. S. Henry, Rev. I. P. Zimmerman, Rev. J. R. Sample, Rev. I. B. Crist, Rev. W. L. Rutherford, Rev. W. H. Derr, Rev. J. B. Guiney.

The Sunday School has been a large factor in the training of the future church members and to-day there is a large class of young folks that may be gathered into the church and we prophesy for St. James a continued enlargement and much glory for our Master.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HUGHESVILLE PA.

In a brief history of this church, because of its close connection with the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, the mother of all Lutheran Churches located in this section of the West Branch Valley, it may not be out of place to give a short sketch of the early Christian worship of the pioneers of this valley.

Some time after the Revolution, in the early eighties, before there was any church organization, there appeared among the early pioneers an itinerant preacher by the name of Lehman, who conducted periodical services for a number of years, but because of the vast territory over which he traveled and the meagre facilities for getting around, these appointments were limited to once in two or three months. That the services were appreciated by these early settlers is evident by the fact that they would gather together from a distance of fifteen to twenty miles. In many respects these gatherings were unique. On the appointed day, early in the morning, these widely separated neighbors would come together in all manner of conveyances, some on horseback, others in large farm wagons drawn by horses or oxen. All the male contingent would come with their trusty rifles in hand prepared for any emergency that might arise from attack by marauding band of Indians who still infested this valley. Another feature of these services was that instead of being one hour or

one hour and a-half in length as the present day services are, they were promptly called at nine o'clock and continued until twelve o'clock, when a recess of one hour was given for lunch and visiting; promptly at one o'clock they were again called together and the services continued for another three hours, when the congregation was dismissed.

We have no authentic information that these meetings were conducted under the auspices of any organization, although Mr.



Trinity Church, Hughesville

Lehman was a Lutheran minister and the congregation was ultimately organized into a Lutheran Church in 1791. The meetings were first held in the groves and if the weather was inclement then they were held in the homes of some of the pioneers or in the barns.

The organization in this year, 1791, erected a house of worship on or near the Muncy Creek, in what is now known as Muncy Creek Township, Lycoming County, about mid-way between Muncy and Hughesville. The church was dedicated under the name of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. This Church enjoys the distinction of being the first church building within the

bounds of what is now Lycoming County and probably within the bounds of the territory of Susquehanna Synod.

In this first Church of the West Branch Valley the fathers and mothers and their families worshiped for nearly sixty years. About this time Hughesville had grown to be a village of no mean importance and the surrounding country had become more thickly settled and the good people of this section concluded that for the best interests of themselves and the Church at large the time had arrived for them to sever their connection with the old mother Church, Emmanuel, and form a new organization in Hughesville. In the fall of eighteen hundred and fifty a meeting was called of the interested parties and at this meeting a resolution was offered by John Hill that a new organization be formed in Hughesville. The resolution being carried they proceeded to organize by adopting a constitution and by-laws, the election of a Pastor and officers. They called the Rev. George Parsons, who had for a number of years prior to this organization been Pastor of the Muncy Creek charge, and elected as Elders, Frederick Steck and Henry Ulch and as Deacons John Hill and John Poust. The organization was effected under the name and title of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hughesville, Pa. We find from the records that the first communion service was participated in by one hundred and twenty-five communicants.

We have no definite record as to when the Hughesville Church was built, but presumably in eighteen hundred and fifty-one. This building was a plain brick structure with a seating capacity of about three hundred, located on the main street near the center of the town. The building still stands and is at present used for store rooms. Here the congregation quietly and peacefully worshiped until eighteen hundred and eighty-two when the building of a new building was agitated by the Pastor, Rev. W. S. Freas. Nothing definitely was done however, as the Pastor soon resigned to accept a call to the First Church, of Carlisle, Pa. The Rev. John A. Wirt was called as Pastor and through his untiring efforts the membership decided to take up the project of the new Church. In eighteen hundred and eighty-four, the location being decided upon, a Soliciting Committee was appointed, consisting of Rev. Wirt, A. C. Henry and W. C. Frontz. A Building Committee was also appointed consisting of Dr. George Hill, Dr. J. K. Rishel, William Frontz, George P. Frontz and William Barch.

Building operations were begun at once and in August, 1884, the corner-stone was laid with addresses by the Revs. E. H. Leis-enring and J. M. Steck. The Church was completed the following year and dedicated in September 13, 1885, the dedicatory sermon being preached by Rev. Frederick Conrad, D. D., and the act of dedication performed by the Pastor, Rev. J. A. Wirt. A notable feature of the service was the presence of all the Pastors who had served the congregation up to this time. After the completion of the Church, a charter was applied for and granted and the corporate name became Trinity Lutheran Church, of Hughesville, Pa. The cost of the building as originally constructed was \$22,000. In 1894 owing to the rapid growth of the Sunday School it became necessary to enlarge the chapel, which was done at an additional cost of \$6,000.

Under the ministrations of the present Pastor, Rev. Rene H. Williams, the Church structure has been materially changed and improved. "Narber Hall," the social room of the Church, was built in memory of Mrs. Hannah Narber; a gallery was built in the chapel for the accommodation of the Men's Bible class. The interior of the auditorium and the chapel were refrescoed, and the following memorials were placed in the auditorium: Brass pulpit, in memory of DeWitt Bodine; brass lectern, a gift of one of the families of the Church; an altar, in memory of John Harvey Fague; a cross, in memory of Mrs. Julia Steck Hess, and a pipe organ, the gift of Senator Charles Sones, in memory of his mother Mrs. Catherine Sones. The exterior of the building was covered with stucco and cement side-walks laid around the Church. The probable cost of all these improvements was about \$9,000. The most gratifying feature to the congregation must be that after an expenditure of about \$37,000 no appreciable debt was left to the congregation on the completion of the building and improvements thereon.

Trinity enjoys the proud distinction of having sent more young men into the ministry of the Church than any other congregation within the bounds of the Susquehanna Synod, the list of our ministerial sons follows: Jacob Steck, Daniel Steck, Charles Steck, John Steck, William Steck, Reuben Hill, Jonathan Dimm, C. W. Sanders, E. E. Baker, Charles Derr, A. E. Renn, Chalmers Frontz, Thomas Taggart, William Price, Henry Bower and A. E. Chamberlain.

The congregation from its first organization to the present has been served by the following pastors:

Rev. George Parsons, D. D.,	1850-1866
Rev. E. A. Sharretts, D. D.,	1866-1869
Rev. A. H. Auché,	1869-1872
Rev. M. L. Heisler,	1872-1878
Rev. W. S. Freas., D. D.,	1880-1882
Rev. J. A. Wirt, D. D.,	1883-1895
Rev. C. E. Walter, D. D.,	1895-1898
Rev. J. H. Barb, D. D.,	1898-1912
Rev. Rene H. Williams,	1912-

A pleasing coincidence is that the present pastor is the grandson of the Rev. John T. Williams who was pastor of Emmanuel from 1838 to 1845. There are in the membership of Trinity those who were members of the Emmanuel congregation under Mr. Williams' pastorate and others who were confirmed and married by him.

With all of the above-named pastors the writer enjoyed close and intimate acquaintance and can truthfully say from personal knowledge that Trinity is to be congratulated on having selected without an exception pastors who in qualifications were above the average.

While Trinity has had no extraordinary accessions to its membership, its growth has been steady and healthy. Starting with one hundred and twenty-five it has grown to over five hundred members. It occupies a place of influence and position in the town and community that are exceedingly gratifying.

GEORGE W. METZGER, M. D.

HISTORY OF FOLLMER LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Follmer Lutheran congregation was one of the first organized in the territory of the Susquehanna Synod. Michael Follmer, the father of the church, granted land for the site of a church building and a schoolhouse nearby. The congregation had been organized and served; but had no particular place of worship.

The cost of erecting a church building on the site donated was met by those early pioneers with liberal contributions. The house was of newly-hewn logs. The inside walls appeared as the outside; but the members were satisfied. They did their best. The pulpit was of the then popular wine-glass shape with ascending stairway at one side. The altar, a table of roughly-wrought wood, stood within a small enclosure. Benches served as pews. The happy congregation dedicated their church about 1795. The building was primarily intended for German Lutheran services;



Follmer Lutheran Church, Follmer Charge.

but by the constitution ministers of other denominations were allowed to hold services. The people, too, were not all Lutheran, but they were one in spirit; and the congregation continually thrived. Michael Follmer, the patriarch of the congregation, died before the edifice was built, but his work was done. His descendants have ever been loyal to the old church.

The material of the first congregation came from all of northern Northumberland County and a large part of Montour County. The present Lutheran congregations at Danville, Milton, Watsonstown, Washingtonville, Pottsgrove, Turbotville, McEwinsville, and Oak Grove were all fostered by this pioneer church. Its minister served those who could attend service at the mother

church, and also those who lived far away, but who were eager to worship God.

In 1831, the old church was remodeled. Outside it was weather-boarded and painted. Inside a gallery was built around three sides—for the increasing congregation—and the walls were prepared for plastering. Other improvements to the building and cemetery increased the cost to over \$600. This was cheerfully given and the people were rightly pleased with their building. The old pulpit remained until 1852, when other improvements were made.

In 1859, with one dissenting vote, it was decided to erect a new church. May 15, 1859, Rev. C. C. Culler preached the last sermon in the old church. The cornerstone of the present church was laid July 2, 1859, the services being in English and German. It was dedicated on Jan. 22, 1860. The church is 65x45, with a basement for the Sunday School, its location commanding and the surroundings beautiful. Walls and grounds bespeak the hardships and victories of pioneers. Its members are justly proud of their grand historic church.

The records of early pastors are meagre. Rev. H. J. Shellhart, who was the first pastor at the Dreisbach Union Church, preached to Lutherans and Reformed in Follmer's vicinity, before the first church was built. Rev. Geistweit served both congregations and was at the dedication of Follmer Church. Revs. Stock and Kreamer followed. They lived in Sunbury and served a wide circuit. In Rev. Kreamer's time there were sixty-two communicants. Rev. Frederick Plitt became pastor about 1806, preaching at Follmer's every four weeks. Revs. Engle, Repass and Waage followed. Revs. Repass and Waage served Lutherans from Sunbury to Williamsport. Rev. William Garman, 1829-1831, was the last to preach only in German. Rev. Charles Miller followed, preaching the first English sermon. He resigned in 1835. Rev. C. F. Staver, beginning in 1836, was the pastor to keep the records. In 1840 there were ninety-two members. Then followed:

Rev. S. R. Boyer, 1846-1851.
Rev. M. J. Alleman, 1851-1852.

Rev. Jesse Winecoff, 1853-1855.
Rev. J. T. Williams, 1856-1858.

Rev. C. C. Culler, of Milton, who became pastor in 1858, was

instrumental in bringing about the erection of the present building. His death in 1860 was mourned by all. Next in order were:

Rev. A. Babb, 1860-1862.

Rev. E. J. Wolf, 1866-1868.

Rev. A. R. Horn, 1863-1865.

Rev. George Sill, 1869-1870.

During Rev. U. Myer's ministry, the charge was divided. Turbotville and McEwinsville constituted one charge; Follmer and Center, now Pottsgrove, the other.

Rev. J. B. Bergner, 1873-1876.

Rev. Conrad Huber, 1876-1882.

While the latter was pastor, Oak Grove was added to the charge for a short time and the church at Pottsgrove was built. Rev. J. A. Adams was pastor when the parsonage at Pottsgrove was bought; and the church at Follmer was remodeled at a cost of about \$1,000.00. While Rev. G. E. Faber was pastor, 1889-1894, the Christian Endeavor Society was organized and the sexton's house and horse-sheds were built. When Rev. Faber resigned, Rev. J. M. Steck became pastor. Early in his pastorate, the indebtedness was all paid when the centennial of the church was celebrated in 1895. Rev. Steck was the devoted and beloved pastor until 1904, when he retired from the active ministry. Rev. J. E. Zimmerman became pastor in 1905, and served until 1913. Rev. W. J. Wagner is the present pastor.

Follmer has always been well-blessed with loyal families. The Follmers, Hoffas, Hoys, Syphers, Gaugers, Lahrs, Artmans, and others, have always been prominently connected with the affairs of this church; and they are represented yet by a majority of the members. To these and many others, who were one with them in the worship of God, and to those worthy servants of the Master, who ministered unto them, belong the praise of such a history.

HISTORY OF POTTS GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

About the year 1871, when Rev. Myers was pastor of the Paradise charge, a division of the charge was effected. Turbotville and McEwinsville constituted one charge; Paradise, Follmer, and Center, the other. For some reason the Paradise congregation failed to enter into the new arrangement; and, after a

few years during which it was supplied, the congregation ceased to have service. Thus Follmer and Center made up the Follmer charge.

During a period extending from April, 1872, until July, 1873, the Follmer charge was without a regular pastor. Rev. S. Curtis supplied for sometime, as did also Rev. Coats and Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder, D. D. The first pastor called to the new Follmer charge was Rev. J. B. Bergner. He began his labors July, 1873, and continued as pastor until July, 1876. Rev. Conrad Huber



Lutheran Church, Pottsgrove, Pa., Follmer Charge.

was Rev. Bergner's successor, serving the charge from October 15, 1876, until July 30, 1882. While he was pastor, Oak Grove congregation was added to the charge. Also the church at Center was abandoned and the seat of the congregation was moved to Pottsgrove. The church building at Pottsgrove was erected in 1881. The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized, and the congregation became active in the benevolent work of the Susquehanna Synod.

Rev. Huber's successor was Rev. J. A. Adams. He began his work April 1, 1883, and his resignation took effect April, 1888. Rev. G. E. Faber followed Rev. Adams, commencing his labors March 1, 1889. He served until April 8, 1894. During this time the Pottsgrove church was remodeled at a cost of \$677. A Young

People's Society of Christian Endeavor was organized which numbered, when he left, fifty members. The next pastor was Rev. J. M. Steck, who began his work in the charge July 1, 1894, and continued its pastor for a period of over ten years. During all this time he served the people faithfully and acceptably. His resignation, which was tendered on account of ill health, took effect Oct. 1, 1904. After his resignation, he lived in his own home, close by the church, where he died July 10, 1907.

Rev. J. Ernest Zimmerman became pastor of the charge and was installed pastor on Aug. 20, 1905, in the Follmer church. While he was pastor, the Pottsgrove church was repaired and re-carpeted at a cost of \$400. On June 1, 1913, Rev. W. J. Wagner was installed in the Pottsgrove church; he is the present pastor. Repairs have been made on the church-sheds and parsonage at a cost of \$500.

It may truthfully be said that the Pottsgrove church is one of the strongest and most active rural churches in the Susquehanna Synod.

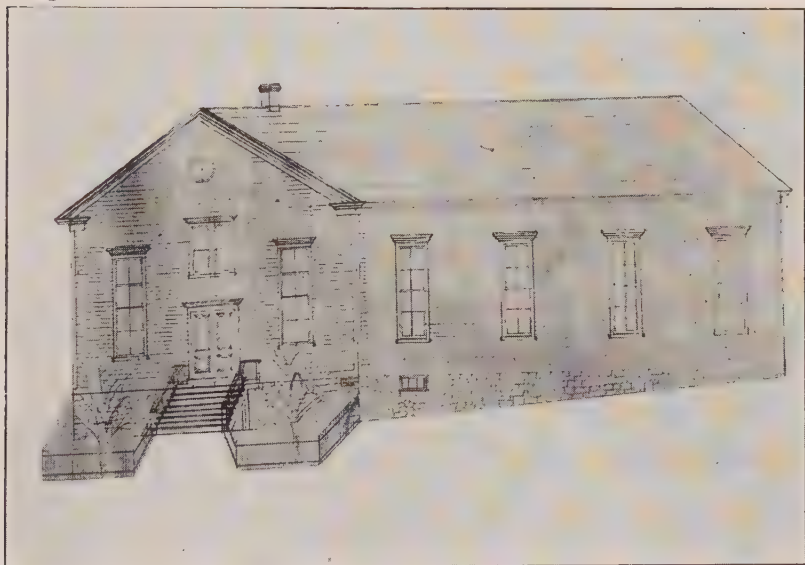
TRINITY CHURCH, HAZLETON, PA.

REV. JOHN WAGNER, D. D., Pastor.

Steps preliminary to the organization of Trinity Lutheran Church at Hazleton were taken in the summer of 1873. July 1st of that year the present pastor, then a young student from the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, not yet ordained to the Gospel ministry, first came upon the field. He came in response to a call from a few people who, true to the faith of their fathers, longed for the privilege of worshiping God in a General Synod English Lutheran Church. He found a mere handful of people without an organization, without a place of worship, with only a borrowed Bible to preach from. There was neither choir, organist nor organ. Four months were spent in praying, preaching, planning.

October 1st, 1873, on the third story of the "Sons of America" hall, a temporary organization was effected till a regular pastor could be secured. A month later he returned to Gettysburg to complete his studies in preparation for the ministry. Repeated efforts were made to secure a pastor, but all were unsuccessful.

In April, 1874, a call was extended to Rev. John Wagner. After prayerful deliberation it was accepted, and July 1st he took charge of the work. A thorough canvass of the town and vicinity discovered only fifteen persons willing to undertake the permanent organization of an English Lutheran Church, on the basis of the General Synod. It was a feeble beginning,—a day of small things. The little flock was poor in material resources. General Synod Lutheranism was unknown in all northeastern Pennsylvania. Few cared to aid the movement. Some opposed.



Original Trinity Church, Hazleton

The other Lutheran churches round about were hostile. The obstacles in the way of ultimate success looked well-nigh insurmountable. Often did the hearts of the few members tremble like old Eli's by the wayside for the ark of the Lord.

December 17, 1876, after two and a-half years of self-sacrificing efforts, the first little church was dedicated. The membership numbered only forty. The total cost of the property, including lot and furnishings was four thousand dollars, of which all but \$700.00 was provided for on the day of dedication.

Greatly encouraged the congregation worshiped regularly in

the new church once a Sabbath with services alternating morning and evening for three and a-half years, when Trinity Lutheran Church severed its relations with the two country congregations, which had formed part of the Hazleton charge. Thereafter Divine worship was celebrated twice every Lord's day. At the first communion in the new church the membership was nearly doubled, twenty-nine being added April 8, 1877. Other large accessions followed from time to time. February 6, 1881, an effort was made to liquidate the remaining indebtedness, and proved successful. July 1st, 1883, the congregation became self-supporting, no further aid being asked from the Board of Home Missions. The aid received from the Board in nine years amounted to \$1,600.00, never more than \$200.00 a year. In these same nine years the congregation paid back into the treasuries of the various benevolent Boards of the Church \$916.79. In these nine years the membership increased from fifteen to one hundred and sixty-nine, after deducting all losses. In the forty-two years of its history Trinity Church has raised for missionary, educational and benevolent purposes a total of \$32,913.17, and for local parish expenses a total of \$189,154.51, or a grand total for all purposes of \$222,067.58. The new church soon proved too small for the growing congregation, and ten years later another lot 100x190 feet was bought for \$4,000.00 on which the second church, costing over \$15,000.00 was erected, and which was dedicated June 3, 1888. In January, 1897, at a congregational meeting the question of building another and larger church was considered, more room being needed for the growing congregation and Sunday School. Action was deferred from time to time. August 7, 1904, the cornerstone of the present large and substantial church, built of Port Deposit granite, was laid; and on Palm Sunday, April 16, 1905, the third church was dedicated, the total cost of the same including furnishings and pipe organ, being in excess of \$53,000.00, on which there is no debt. The confirmed membership is 880 and the baptized membership is 1,290. The number of persons admitted into communicant membership with Trinity Church in the forty-two years of its history has been 1,979. The number of infants baptized has been 1,251. The number of marriages solemnized by its pastor has been 437. The number of funerals 690.

April 7, 1879, a Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary So-

ciety was organized which has prosecuted its specific work with great zeal and blessed results. May 17, 1883, a Mission Band was organized, which now enrolls nearly one hundred members. April 19, 1888, a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was formed, which was changed into a "Young People's Luther Alliance" November 2, 1890. The change proving unsatisfactory, in the course of a few years the Society of Christian Endeavor was reorganized; and later the organization adopted the



Present Trinity Church, Hazleton

name of "Young People's Society," now a vigorous and flourishing organization. April 3, 1891, a society called "The Young People's Training Class" was formed, composed of former catechetical classes, its object being to develop the young people of the Church in the Divine life and enlist them actively in Christian work. After accomplishing much good the society disbanded.

June, 1898, a company of the United Boys' Brigade of America was organized, its aim being to develop the young men physically, morally and spiritually, the exercises of the weekly meet-

ings consisting of physical culture and Bible study. For a number of years it was a useful and helpful auxiliary of the congregation, but interest finally waned, and the company disbanded.

April 16, 1905, the Men's Brotherhood was formed, and which still continues its activities with varying interest and more or less success.

One of the most helpful and efficient organizations of Trinity Church has been the "Ladies' Aid Society." At the dedication of the third church \$3,600.00 was pledged by it and paid towards its erection.

The Sunday School, organized August, 1874, with fifty members, has been through the years since an agency for good whose beneficent work is beyond all computation. From it the pastor has gathered from year to year the members of his catchetical classes and the candidates for confirmation. Eternity alone can disclose the blessed streams of influence that were there started. The membership of the school is 632, exclusive of cradle roll and Home Department.

From Trinity Church have gone four young men who are now preaching "the glorious Gospel of the blessed God," viz: Revs. O. G. Klinger, M. E. McLinn, M. S. Kemp, Litt. D., and C. S. Bottiger. Another young man, Paul S. Wagner is in the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, preparing for the work of the Gospel ministry.

July 1, 1890, with the sixteenth anniversary of the church, the present pastor was given a vacation of three months with a purse to defray the expenses of a trip to the Pacific Coast. With the celebration of the fortieth anniversary its first and only pastor was granted another three months' vacation with a generous purse to aid in defraying the expenses of a trip to the Holy Land, which, after passage had been secured, had to be postponed because of the European war.

After forty-two years of an unbroken experience of God's goodness and the mighty and marvelous manifestations of His presence and saving power, pastor and people join in gratefully raising their Ebenezer, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," and in the devout exclamation: "Behold what God hath wrought!"

PINE STREET, DANVILLE.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Danville, Pennsylvania, commonly known as the Pine Street Lutheran Church, situated in the Third ward of the borough of Danville, was organized January 1, 1845. Served by the Rev. Elias Schwartz as pastor from Jan. 1, 1845, to March 1845. Rev. Ruthrouff from March 1845 to Jan., 1846. Rev. M. J. Alleman from 1846 to 1848. No pastor for two years, after which period the congregation was reorganized by Rev. P. Willard. Much dissatisfaction prevailed about that time on account of the selection of a lot of ground for building a church. The question of location was submitted to the congregation, when a majority decided to buy and build on the present site. The minority refused to submit, and withdrew and organized a congregation in the Second ward of Danville, and made application to the Pennsylvania Synod and were admitted. The congregation is now known by "Trinity Lutheran Church" of Danville. On May 11th, 1856, Rev. Willard resigned, after serving the Lutheran people for more than six years. In July of the same year—1856—the congregation called Rev. M. H. Stover, of Waterloo, New York. He was installed on the 21st day of October in the same year. The sermon was preached by Rev. Geo. Parsons, President of the East Pennsylvania Synod, the charge to the pastor was delivered by Rev. E. A. Sharretts, of Bloomsburg, and the charge to the people by Rev. R. A. Fink, of Lewisburg, Pa. Rev. Stoner served four years, resigning the charge May 14, 1860. During his ministry the church building was erected 1858. The audience chamber, however, remained unfinished for some time, the congregation worshipping in the basement which was now neatly finished.

Rev. Eli Huber succeeded Rev. Stover. His ministry extended to only six months. Called Oct. 26, 1860; resigned June 27, 1861. During his stay and toward its close, an effort was made to unite the two English congregations under one pastor.

A resolution of Council passed June 24, 1861, requested Rev. Huber to communicate with Rev. Hinkel, then pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, proposing this union. A union, however, dependent upon the resignation of Rev. Hinkel. The matter failed, as Rev. Hinkel informed Rev. Huber that his people would not allow him to resign. Rev. Huber then resigned, as above stated

June 27, 1861. Rev. R. P. Lane was elected to succeed Rev. Huber August 18, 1861. Resigned August 16, 1863. During his pastorate the church was completed throughout and dedicated. October 25, 1863, at a congregational meeting, Rev. E. A. Sharretts, of Orangeville, was unanimously elected as pastor and Nov. 29, 1863, regularly installed. On Feb. 25, 1866, resigned. An effort was made to have him withdraw his resignation but did not succeed. May 27, 1866, Rev. Geo. M. Rhodes was chosen pastor, and on April 6, 1870, resigned.

Rev. U. Graves was called August 27, 1870, and resigned June 29, 1873. Rev. M. L. Shindel, of Selinsgrove, was elected pastor Dec. 14, 1873, and entered upon his duties March 1, 1874, and served this pastorate until June, 1906, when he was made Pastor Emeritus, and the Rev. L. W. Walter was elected assistant pastor. Dr. Shindel passed into rest in August, 1906, and Rev. L. W. Walter was elected pastor and served the congregation until 1909. Rev. J. H. Musselman was then elected and resigned in 1916.

Much might be said of this congregation. It has had a varied and trying experience. Its membership ebbed and flowed as the industries of the town and as the business increased or decreased. The church building is a large and handsome one, and the audience chamber as well as the lecture room are both nicely arranged and beautiful.

This congregation at the present date is one of the most substantial in the Susquehanna Synod, owning valuable property consisting of church and parsonage, absolutely free from debt. Rev. D. C. Burnite became pastor in October, 1916.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, JERSEY SHORE, PA.

The beginning of the St. John's Lutheran Church of Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, like most congregations in their incipient days, was altogether unpretentious. Like many another, in its initial life, the church encountered much jealous opposition. A pastor of a sister church and many others urged lack of need of this additional church, and claimed that the original membership

was composed of "hired girls." This same minister, in his retired years, repeatedly found fellowship with the membership of this church, at their stated services, most desirable and helpful. To-day, the church has the strongest membership, numerically, of all of the twelve churches of the town.

There is no absolutely accurate history of the church obtainable. In 1900, Mr. John Staver, deceased—a life-long resident



St. John's Church, Jersey Shore

of this section, and a charter member of St. John's—"depending almost entirely upon his wonderfully retentive memory," prepared a short history of the congregation, which is regarded by the older members as "entirely authentic." The items of early history herein recorded have been gleaned largely from that source.

During the years from 1860 to 1864, the Rev. Dr. Wm. L. Heisler, father of the late Rev. Dr. Charles W. Heisler, was pastor of the charge comprising the two Lutheran churches in Nippenose valley and the Garman church in Pine Creek township, three miles northeast of Jersey Shore. While serving this charge, he occasionally preached at Jersey Shore, on the second floor of

the old engine house, but no attempt at effecting an organization is reported.

Rev. H. B. Winton accepted a call to the Garman-Nippenose charge in the spring of 1866, and under his pastoral care much earnest work was accomplished. In the fall of 1866, Rev. Winton began preaching an occasional sermon in Calvert and Staver's Hall in Jersey Shore; and, in a short time, an organization was effected with thirty-one charter members. The names of these charter members were: John Shadle, July Shadle, John Staver, Mary Staver, Lizzie Staver, Carrie Staver, John Knepley, Mary Knepley, John Lentz, Catharine Lentz, Joel Kline, Mary E. Kline, Frances L. Kline, Catharine Bailey, Elizabeth Rotharmel, Susan Rotharmel, Elizabeth Norton, Sophia Daubner, Sarah E. Winton, Antonetti Winton, Arbeline Winton, George M. Heisler, Henry Barner, Lucy A. Barner, Mary Miller, Edwin Shenk, Catharine Carpenter, Catharine Shenk, Charlott Miller, Sarah A. Farley, and Rebecca Barto. All of these are recorded as having been received by letter, April 29th, 1867. Mrs. Carrie (Staver) Sypher is the only surviving charter member who is enrolled among the present membership.

During December of the same year (1867) the following were also received: Charles Friedle, William Lentz, S. Maltida Lentz, Jacob Knepley, Margret J. Knepley, Catharine Friedle, Elizabeth Bickel, Elizabeth Lentz Mitchell, M. L. Staver, John Bickel, Julia Lentz, Rachel Kurtz, Maggie Kurtz, Mary Shenk, Susan Shenk Myers, John Banschaff, Mary Banschaff, David Trump, Sarah Trump, Annie Mary Messimer, John Shultz, George Lentz, Anna Betts, Elizabeth Kurtz, Henry Hain, John Hain, Elizabeth Hain, Mary Keiffer and Julia Keiffer. All of these were received by profession of faith, except S. Maltida Lentz, who was received by letter. Eighty-four persons were received into church fellowship during the three years of Rev. Mr. Winton's connection with the new organization, and seven of these are later credited with having been "suspended."

The first prayermeeting was composed of four members, who met in the pastor's home. Thus, by the foregoing it is apparent that the St. John's Lutheran Church of Jersey Shore can also boast of a very humble beginning.

In the fall of 1867, a very successful protracted meeting was held in the hall. At the close of this effort, a meeting was held

to consider the advisability of building a church; and resulted in the purchase of the double lot on which the present church edifice and parsonage stand, for the sum of \$650.00. Early in the spring of 1868, digging for the foundation was begun; and, from the clay secured in the excavation, all the brick in the present building were secured and burned in a kiln erected within four feet of the east wall of the now standing church. In this manner, a very considerable amount of money was saved; as, by actual measurement there are 234,000 brick in the church and spire.



Garman Church, Jersey Shore Charge

The cornerstone was laid during the fore part of August, 1868. The sermon on the occasion was preached by Rev. G. W. Hemp-erly, assisted by Rev. Dr. S. Domer.

In January, 1869, the lecture room was dedicated; following which, a very successful protracted meeting was held, resulting in additional strength to the new organization. Rev. U. Graves preached the sermon of dedication.

In August of 1868 the joint council of the Pine Creek, Nippenose Valley and Jersey Shore churches met, and amicably agreed to divide the charge; as one pastor could not cultivate the field

properly. The two churches of Nippenose valley were constituted one pastorate; and Jersey Shore and Pine Creek another.

In November, 1869, Rev. H. B. Winton resigned; and in January, 1870, Rev. J. M. Steck assumed charge. The same year, the parsonage was completed and occupied by the pastor. Also in the same year, the spire was completed and the audience room plastered. In March, 1871, the church walls were frescoed, the seating placed, the pulpit and choir furniture arranged in order; and, when in June, 1871, Susquehanna Synod held its session here, the completed building was fully and regularly dedicated to the service of Almighty God. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. H. B. Belmer. The entire cost of the building operations was \$10,809.63.

After laboring in the charge over five years, Rev. J. M. Steck resigned, and was succeeded by Rev. A. W. Lentz, who continued as pastor for three years.

Rev. J. A. Bright followed Rev. Lentz and served about four years.

Rev. W. H. Schoch assumed charge in April of 1882 and continued for nine years, or to April, 1891. During his period of service, a congregation was organized and a church built at Salladasburg; and the Pine Creek Church, which had been destroyed by fire, was rebuilt.

About this time, the charge was again divided: Pine Creek (or Garman) and Salladasburg becoming a separate pastorate from St. John's, Jersey Shore.

Rev. J. T. Gladhill accepted the Jersey Shore pastorate in the autumn of 1891, and continued as pastor until 1898. Shortly after locating in the parsonage, a very severe wind storm wrecked the high church spire; carrying it almost bodily upon the roof of the parsonage kitchen and endangering the life of Mrs. Gladhill, who had stepped into an adjoining room but a minute or two before the roof and ceiling crashed in.

Rev. J. C. Fasold became pastor in October, 1898. During his pastorate the interior of the audience room was beautifully reconstructed, and other minor improvements made at an expense of nearly \$3,000. Rev. Fasold resigned in July, 1900, to take effect November 1st of the same year. In the record of his ministry at this church. Rev. Fasold indites these words: "My

pastoral experience at Jersey Shore was not without experience, both to myself and the congregation."

January 1st, 1901, Rev. C. Fickinger became pastor of St. John's, and continued to serve it until June 1st, 1911, an active pastorate of more than ten years. There is no record of important events during the time of this pastoral relation, except the holding of several successful revival meetings.

Rev. A. E. Cooper, the present pastor, accepted a call to St. John's in October, 1911. During the first three years of this ministry, the communicant membership of the church was more than doubled; and, for the first time in the history of the congregation, the active membership numbered five hundred; thus becoming one of the strong and substantial churches of the Synod. The congregation has been one of the banner benevolent churches of the Synod for several years. Aside from the regular and external benevolences, two native Christian workers are being annually supported in the foreign field.

A Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized in March of 1886, which has enjoyed a very active and philanthropic existence ever since. This society has provided the means for the building of four prayer-houses in India. A Mission Band, among the young people, was created during the year of 1887, which has had a more-or-less active existence throughout the subsequent years.

The live missionary spirit of the congregation has possibly been largely due to the fact that, during its early history, this congregation was a beneficiary for several years of the Home Mission Board. In his record of the early history of the congregation, the late Mr. John Staver—referring to the reception of this aid—makes the interesting comment: "Dear friends, the great benefit of home mission work is clearly proven in its ready response to our call for help."

The Sunday School of the church has come to stand only second or third in numerical strength among all the schools of Lycoming county: the enrollment, in all departments, running as high as seven hundred and over. The large Brotherhood class, and several other organized classes, having been very active for several years in soul winning, and as general spiritual and physical aid to the church.

Two large young people's societies have enjoyed an active ex-

istence, and have filled an important office in the development of the life of the members. The senior society was organized about 1880; and the junior in 1913—May 18th.

In the spring of 1914 the auditorium was refrescoed and generally rebeautified and the Sunday School recarpeted, prior to the meeting of Susquehanna Synod with this people, at an approximate cost of \$1,000; all bills for which were paid from the church treasury without any solicitation of funds from the membership.

At the present time the congregation are having plans prepared for a modern Sunday School building addition to the church, and a harmonizing reconstruction of a part of the original church edifice.

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, JERSEY SHORE, PA.

Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to establish a General Synod Lutheran Church in the Third ward of Jersey Shore, that with the Garman Church and Salladasburg might form a pastorate. After which Dr. J. M. Steck and Rev. J. G. Griffith, a committee from Conference arranged for Rev. Griffith to preach for several months at Garman and Jersey Shore with a view to organization at the latter place. The generous and very courteous Swedish Lutheran congregation in the Third ward gave the use of their church at the nominal rental of twenty-five cents per service.

Rev. A. R. Glaze, after having preached at Garman, Salladasburg, and Jersey Shore, on May 29th, 1899, became pastor of these congregations, at a salary of \$650.00. Distributed as follows: Garman, \$300, Salladasburg \$100, the Third Lutheran \$150, and the Susquehanna Synod \$100. On Sunday, September 10th, 1899, twelve members were provisionally received at Jersey Shore. A week's service was held from October 26th to November 2nd by pastor Glaze, assisted by Rev. U. Myers, President of Synod, Rev. A. O. Mullen, Secretary of Synod, and Rev. J. G. Griffith. At the last service of the series twelve were added to the congregation and a constitution was adopted. The following Sunday the second communion was held. Rapid growth seemed to be assured.

Rev. Griffith had organized on May 21st a Sunday School of 31 members, which at the time of the organization of the congregation, November 2nd, 1899, had almost doubled its membership. Rev. Glaze was regularly installed November 3d. The ceremony being conducted in the Garman Church. Rev. U. Myers, President of Synod, delivered the charge to the pastor, and Rev. D. E. Rupley to the congregation. A Pastor's Aid Society was organized November 18th, 1899, at the home of John A. Peterson.



Grace Church, Jersey Shore

The following persons were present: Rev. A. R. Glaze, Mrs. E. J. Glaze, Mrs. Nora Peterson, Mrs. M. H. Strauss, and Mrs. Mary Jane Russell. December 3d, 1899, "Twentieth Century Memorial" was adopted as the name of the church. Rev. Glaze's records end January 19th, 1902.

Soon after this the congregation seems to have disbanded. In the minutes of the Synod, 1903, there appears a resolution recommending a reorganization of the congregation. A similar resolution appears again in the minutes of 1904. In 1905 the President of Synod recommends in his annual report that a canvass of that part of the city be made. In pursuance of this rec-

ommendation it was resolved at this same meeting of Synod that an effort be made to reorganize the congregation, and form a pastorate with Trinity, Avis, and Garman.

September 4th, 1905, at a meeting held in the Swedish Lutheran Church, a reorganization was effected with 36 members by Rev. B. S. Dise, supervising pastor. Upon the reorganization the name "Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church" was adopted. The following entered into the organization: W. P. Harris, Mrs. W. P. Harris, E. J. Freet, Mrs. E. J. Freet, F. S. Bock, Lillian Bock, J. Ellis Morris, Mrs. Priscilla Morris, I. C. McClintic, Mrs. McClintic, Miss Jean Sperring, A. E. Dougherty, L. C. Huyler, Virginia Huyler, Lizzie A. Moyer, Amy B. Curts, Clara Moon, D. Clarence Moyer, J. L. Davis, Anna Margaret Davis, E. H. Miller, Mrs. E. H. Miller, Mrs. A. E. Dougherty, Mrs. Mary Bonnell, W. P. Bock, Mrs. H. P. Bock, B. M. Bierly, Carrie Morris, Hazel Moyer, Helen Moyer, Luther Glaze, Raymond Glaze, J. H. Myers, Ella Myers, W. H. Feig, Minnie Feig—36. April 23-24, 1906, the West Branch Conference met with this congregation. A canvass was made and seventy Lutheran families were found in the Third ward. The mission was recommended to Synod for aid which was pledged by the Synod at its next meeting. A charter was granted the congregation June 18th, 1906. The chapel or church was built during the year of 1907 at a cost of \$4,500. During the summer of 1907 George D. Clark, a student supplied the church for some months. January 19th, 1908, the services of dedication were held. Rev. A. Stewart Hartman, D. D., General Secretary of the Board of Home Missions, officiated. Probably Dr. H. H. Weber, Secretary Board of Church Extension, was present also.

December 18th, 1907, Rev. B. F. Kautz accepted a call to the church and became its pastor. He served this church alone until February 1st, 1910, when a pastorate was again formed of Trinity, Avis, and Garman with Grace and Rev. Kautz became pastor of the three churches. February 1st, 1912, Rev. Kautz resigned.

May 1st, 1912, Rev. John H. Barb, D. D., became pastor of this charge and has continued in this field to the present. Gratifying progress has been made since 1912. Then the membership numbered about 40. Now the enrollment is 170. In this period a mortgage indebtedness of \$1,800 has been cancelled. The interior of the church has been beautified greatly by frescoping and re-

carpeting. A piano has been placed in the church. The outside has been repainted. These improvements have all been paid for. This church has had a hard struggle, but the future is bright with promise.

A HISTORY IN BRIEF OF CHRIST'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH, THIRD AND LOCUST
STREETS, LEWISBURG, PA.

BY REV. H. C. ROSE.

In writing a brief history of our strong old church, the method of our treatment of the story is outlined for us.

In 1876 Rev. W. W. Criley, then pastor, wrote a history of the church up to that date. In this account, he wove the history of the organization into the ministries of the different pastors who had served here. Many of the facts he presented came from the memories of the then older members.

In 1887 Rev. E. H. Leisenring compiled a history from the Rev. Criley's history and brought it down to date. Even what data these men had access to has since been destroyed by fire. Hence we use their facts, follow their method, and simply add to, and bring to date their history. Mrs. Jane Wolfe and Mr. C. F. Lindig also wrote histories of the church, using this same method.

Rev. John Herbst.

In 1802, Rev. John Herbst, pastor, residing in Freeburg, Snyder County, came occasionally and preached the word to a few people of the Lutheran faith here. These services were held in a small log school house situated where the present church building now stands. This marked the beginnings of our present work.

Rev. William Ilgin,

Of Penn's Valley, Center County, came as the second torch-bearer. He preached once a month from 1803 to 1807. The distance he was obliged to travel, and the number of congregations he served, prevented him from giving much attention to the needs of a few seekers after truth here. At this time there was no organization; and out of their love for human souls, these great-hearted fore-runners simply came and sowed the seed.

Rev. Conrad Walter

Supplied the faithful few during the year 1808. He lived in Freeburg, Snyder County.



Christ's Church, Lewisburg

Rev. George Heim

Served as pastor from 1809 to 1828. Rev. Heim had the advantage of living nearer to Lewisburg than any of his predecessors. His home was in Buffalo Valley near the Dreisbach

Church. In a sense this ministry marked the real beginning of our Church's history in Lewisburg. At this time a regular organization was effected and church officers were elected. Services were held part of the time in the old Christian meeting house which then stood on North Fifth Street, near St. Mary's. Later the services were held in a school house on the present church property. This time a new brick instead of the old log house. In this Lutheran center, even then there seems to have been good congregations. It is related that on one occasion the building was so filled that a prominent member must take his place behind the door. The pastor prefaced his sermon by saying that he would preach so plainly that even John behind the door could understand.

Now came dissatisfaction, expressed by the younger worshipers, that the one sermon a month which they were privileged to hear, was in German which they could not well understand. The pastor could not easily preach in English, and was unwilling to introduce the language of this country. This caused a great loss, for the young people went to, and ultimately united with other churches where they could better understand the services. After a vacancy of a couple years the congregation secured the services of

Rev. J. G. Anspach

then residing at Mifflinburg. This was in 1831. He continued as pastor for thirteen years.

Ludwig Derr, the owner of the present church lot, presented it for burial purposes, with the privilege of the church erecting a church building if they thought it a proper move. This congregation then worked in co-partnership with the Reformed congregation and in 1834 completed a Union Church—to be used by both denominations. This building stood on land now covered by our present church. The edifice erected was of brick and nearly square (40x50) and had galleries on three sides.

Now another request came from the younger members of the congregation for some English preaching. In 1843 the officers arranged with Rev. Dr. H. Zeigler, of Selinsgrove, to preach once a month in English. Rev. Anspach resigned in 1844. When he began his ministry there were twenty-one members enrolled and he left to his successor a membership of one hundred eighty.

Rev. F. Ruthrauff

Served as pastor from 1846 to 1849, in conjunction with the church at Milton where he lived. Rev. Ruthrauff introduced alternate German and English preaching. This proved very beneficial. The younger people were satisfied; and the old prejudice against the use of the English language in the pulpit was in part overcome.

During this ministry a prayermeeting was established as a regular form and means of worship. The church grew both numerically and spiritually.

Rev. M. J. Alleman

Came to this congregation in 1849. He was then pastor at Northumberland. In the spring of 1850 he removed to Lewisburg and became the first resident pastor of the church. He continued to divide his labors between the Lewisburg and Northumberland churches. He was installed April 6th, 1850, as near as is known this was the first installation service here.

During this pastorate there was an unsuccessful effort made to divide the church property, then owned by the Reformed and Lutheran congregations. A little later the property was sold by the Court, July 19th, 1851. It was purchased by Michael Brown, of the Reformed Church. The trustees of our church then bought the property for the Lutheran congregation for the sum of fifteen hundred dollars. The Court granted them a deed. The congregation soon began to tear down the old Union Church in order to erect a better and more modern church building. The cornerstone of the new church was laid in June, 1852. Rev. Alleman resigned in August, 1852.

Rev. Jesse Winecoff

Was immediately elected pastor and came to help complete the church building. Services were held in the basement of the new building until the spring of 1853, when the completed church was dedicated. The church was chartered in 1853.

But little is known of the work of Rev. Winecoff. He resigned in 1855.

Rev. Reuben Fink

Was elected pastor and came in 1856. Rev. Fink was the first pastor who gave his entire time and energy to the Lewisburg

church. The congregation grew and prospered, especially in the first years of his ministry. During this pastorate a parsonage was built in 1858 and other improvements made and new systems introduced. He received a call from Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and resigned here October 15th, 1865, after a pastorate of nine years. The membership was now three hundred and twenty-eight.

Rev. Joshua Evans

Came to Lewisburg in June, 1866, from Hagerstown, Maryland. He was an earnest, active and zealous man, and no doubt would have done a good and permanent work for the Church had not his health failed. In Harrisburg at the General Synod meeting in June, 1868, he was stricken with paralysis. He died January 29th, 1869.

Before the year 1867 this congregation was connected with the East Pennsylvania Synod of the General Synod. In this year the Susquehanna Synod was formed and our congregation became a part of it, even though we are on the soil of the Central Pennsylvania Synod.

Rev. I. C. Burkhalter (later Burke)

Was elected as pastor and entered upon his duties in April, 1869. Under his leadership the congregation grew so rapidly that it became necessary to enlarge the church building. This was done by adding twenty-five feet to the rear of the old church edifice. The church thus enlarged was re-dedicated December 28th, 1873. The building committee was J. W. Hensel, C. F. Lindig, and C. V. Van Gundy. In December, 1874, Rev. Burke resigned and moved to Columbia, Pennsylvania. The membership was now three hundred and fifty.

Rev. W. W. Criley

Preached his first sermon here as pastor April 4th, 1875.

Dr. Criley saw the need of a church history, and its value to the future generations. Hence he spent much time and labor gleaning from scanty sources the story of the beginnings of our old church.

He was very successful in his pastorate here and many were added unto the church. He lives in grateful memory in the minds of many of our old members.

He accepted a call from the Second Church, of Altoona, and resigned here in March, 1882.

The church membership at this time totaled four hundred and twenty.

Rev. J. R. Shoffner

Was his successor.

Rev. Shoffner was a high churchman. His extreme views in church relations did not suit the time and place where he ministered. He began his labors here in January, 1883, and resigned March 31st, 1884.

Rev. E. H. Leisenring

Was called as pastor and entered upon his work here November 1, 1884. During this ministry the parsonage was repaired at considerable expense.

On June 17th, 1885, a pipe organ was dedicated to the worship of God, and the entire indebtedness standing against the church was wiped out. Rev. Leisenring writing about it said: "It was a grand and happy day."

In compiling his history of the church in 1887, from that written by Dr. Criley in 1876, Rev. Leisenring says: "The congregation must now have been in existence about eighty-five years. It became a regular organization about sixty-five years ago." This would make the formal organization and election of church officers to date from the removal to the place of worship from the old church on North Fifth street, to the brick school house that stood where our church now stands. This change was made in 1822.

About two hundred members were added to the church during this pastorate. Rev. Leisenring closed his work here on January 1st, 1890, and moved to Chambersburg, Pa.

Rev. L. L. Sieber

Began his work here April 1st, 1890.

The Doctor's ability to preach good instructive sermons drew many people to the regular service of the church. This of course meant a securing, welding and molding of those admitted into a more secure and firm church membership.

During this ministry of three years one hundred and forty-

three new members were received. Dr. Sieber closed his work April 1st, 1893.

Rev. I. H. McGann

Began his ministry November 15th, 1893. This departed saint was an exceptional man in his powers and influence. Seeds of righteousness and reform sown by him will bear fruit many years to come in our church.

How he won the hearts of the people, how he entered the homes of the poor, how he labored in season and out of season, how he plead for some much needed church reforms, how he plead for the cause of righteousness, how he admonished the sinful, how he believed in every man and gave every one a chance—these stories have been told over and over to us on the streets of our town.

During his ministry here 188 children were admitted into the Kingdom by infant baptism. The records show that he received 588 persons into church-fellowship. Dr. McGann's living memorial, in this his beautiful church in which we now worship. The first move for a new church was made by the Ladies' Aid Society in 1897. Charles M. Hess brought the new church project before the Church Council April 24th, 1898. For the time being it was tabled. The first Monday in January, 1899, Rev. McGann circulated ballots among the members, to vote yes or no for a new church building. Three hundred and sixty-six ballots were returned marked "Yes" and eleven "No." The cornerstone of our church was laid September 15th, 1901. Many visiting pastors and distinguished people were present. The Trustees and building committee were T. N. Reber, Williard Oldt, John Rine, A. A. Leiser, Esq., and C. Dale Wolfe. In April, 1901, they contracted with Joseph C. Nesbit to erect a church building. The acting architect, Jacob Naschold, was carrying out the plans of his departed foreman Mr. Lansdown. Differences between these two men when the building was well started caused Mr. Nesbit to give up the work. When the trustees attempted to re-let the contract for the building a law suit resulted. Here the keen insight and interest in the church manifested by A. A. Leiser, Esq., saved for the congregation their case and possibly their property.

The Hummelstown Brown Stone Company had furnished the material. In order to save themselves great loss (for Mr. Nesbit went into bankruptcy) the Company, E. K. Walton, president, took the contract to complete the building. They resumed work on August 5th, 1901. The completed brown-stone church was dedicated September 7th, 1902. On dedication day the amount of twenty-three thousand five hundred and nine dollars: and sixty-one cents (\$23,509.61) was raised and subscribed. The church building alone of our church property is worth possibly \$65,000.00.

Rev. McGann took suddenly ill while attending the General Synod Sessions in Sunbury. He died that same evening May 27th, 1907. Rev. McGann's work was very successful and our one great regret is that we couldn't see in him the worth and merit while living that we see since he is gone. The records at this time show a total membership of 556.

Rev. J. F. Seebach

Followed as pastor November 1st, 1907. Rev. Seebach undertook a difficult task when he attempted to minister to a people who were mourning the loss of a former pastor by death. Then too the congregation was in part divided. Yet his strong personality and scholarly attainments could not be hidden, and manifested themselves in his work among this people. The task of paying off the church debt was the great work that fell upon the shoulders of the pastor and his faithful co-workers. This was accomplished, and the congregation was again free from a heavy indebtedness. During this ministry two hundred and sixty-one new members were received. On Sunday morning, December 1st, 1912, the parsonage was destroyed by fire. Rev. Seebach closed his work here December 31st, 1913, and removed to Hollidaysburg.

The membership at this time was 661.

Rev. H. C. Rose

The present pastor began his work in Lewisburg September 1st, 1913. The trustees of the church were appointed a building committee to erect a parsonage to replace the old one destroyed by fire. This committee consisted of A. A. Leiser, Esq., C. Dale

Wolfe, William Gast, T. N. Reber, and William Haas. The contract for the parsonage was given to Albert Boyer in October, 1913. The building was completed May 1st, 1914, at a cost of almost \$10,000.00.

During the Fall of 1914, the trustees, Frank Catherman, Harry Stahl, William Gast, Ferd Lindig and E. B. Riehl were appointed a building committee to erect suitable stables for the convenience of those who came to church with teams and automobiles. This was done at a cost of more than twelve hundred dollars.

At the present time we have a church plant valued in full at possibly \$90,000.00.

During the present pastorate of less than three years 222 new members have been added to the church. The Sunday School, under the very able leadership of Attorney Cloyd Steininger, Superintendent, is quite a live-wire organization. It has reached its high-water mark in attendance, as well as its highest attendance within the last two years. We have the largest school in our county.

The Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. Frank Catherman, President, has for years been an important factor as a helper in the home church's work and finance.

We have two large and active Missionary Societies. The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, Miss Anna Van Gunday, President, has been teaching the missionary spirit for years. The Young Women's Society has lately been organized and is the largest society of its kind in the Synod. Mrs. H. C. Rose is the President and organized the Society.

Our choir is an organization of exceptional merit. It has proved itself to be a very efficient drawing power to bring people to the regular services of worship. The church's boy-organist, J. Leo Hess, began to play when he was fifteen years old, and is after two years of experience, the most popular organist in the town. A male chorus, a male quartet, and also a choir of boys sing occasionally and add variety and interest. The music is an attractive feature of our worship. Our church services are very well attended.

The present debt is less than \$4,000.00.

The total membership of the church is now 807.

ALL SAINTS' EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
KULPMONT, PA.

BY A. L. DILLENBECK.

The matter of organizing the Lutherans in Kulpmont, Pa., was brought to the attention of the West Branch Conference of the Susquehanna Synod in session at Snyderstown, Pa., in February, 1915, by Rev. A. L. Dillenbeck, pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mount Carmel, Pa. A committee consisting of Revs. A. L. Dillenbeck and W. E. Fischer, D. D., and Charles W. Landis and R. C. Fagley, M. D., the two last named being residents of Kulpmont, was appointed to report to the meeting of the Susquehanna Synod at its meeting in May, 1915.

This committee canvassed Kulpmont and reported to Synod advising the continuance of a Sunday School which had been organized March 21, 1915, by Rev. A. L. Dillenbeck. Synod accepted the report and the matter was put in the hands of the Synodical Home Mission Committee, Rev. F. P. Manhart, D. D., President of Synod, chairman.

Through the efforts of this committee, preaching services were begun Sept. 12, 1915, by Rev. F. P. Manhart, D. D., and continued by him or by students until April 23, 1916. Dr. Manhart organized a congregation of 47 charter members on November 7, 1915. During the winter student A. W. Smith served them frequently and acceptably and also catechized the children.

Rev. A. L. Dillenbeck installed the church council March 5, 1916, and on Easter Sunday confirmed the first class of six, administered communion, and was at that time formally called as pastor. The call was accepted as the best solution to the problem of serving this church with preaching and pastoral services. He was installed as pastor in May by Dr. Fischer, of Shamokin.

In March, 1916, two lots were purchased at the corner of Scott and Twelfth streets, under the advice of Dr. Yarger, of the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension. They cost seventeen hundred dollars (\$1,700.00). By June 1, 1916, the sum of \$1,300.00 had been paid on these with the liberal assistance of friends in Shamokin and Mount Carmel.

June 11, 1916, a congregational meeting was held, Dr. W. E. Fischer presiding, at which it was decided to build and to ask the Board of Church Extension for aid. On July 18th, 1916, it was decided to erect a building to cost about \$5,000.00, and the following building committee was elected: R. C. Fagley, M. D., Chairman; A. L. Dillenbeck, Secretary; Walter Karbley, G. W. Stroup, I. K. Small.

Plans for a building on the rear of the lot for the Sunday School and a basement were adopted. Building operations will begin in the spring of 1917.

CHRIST'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, MILTON, PA.

BY REV. I. P. ZIMMERMAN.

Owing to the felt need of a second Lutheran Church in Milton one hundred and twenty-four members of Trinity Lutheran Church of the same town, with others, held a preliminary meeting in Lincoln Street School House June 21st, 1888, for the purpose of considering such an organization.

Mr. Peter Oliphant was chosen temporary chairman, and Mr. John Steigerwalt as secretary.

After due consideration of the matter a resolution was passed to meet in the Opera House in two weeks from date, to organize a Lutheran congregation, adopt a constitution, and elect a church council.

In accordance with the above resolution at the meeting called for the purpose July 5th, 1888, the constitution was adopted and the first council elected, consisting of the following brethren: Elders, Messrs. Peter Oliphant, Edward Hoy, W. A. Reed, John Newcomer; deacons, Messrs. John Noriconk, Charles Gast, William Wetzel, Israel Wehre, Thomas Hafer; trustees, Messrs. W. A. Reed, J. F. Wolfinger, and Daniel W. Kramer.

The council held its first meeting July 11th, 1885, elected its officers and extended a call to Rev. J. A. Flickinger to become the first pastor.

September 19th, 1888, at a congregational meeting the trustees

were authorized to purchase the lots whereon the church was subsequently erected, located in Center street.

At the same meeting the building committee was appointed.

Rev. J. A. Flickinger, the pastor-elect, took formal charge Dec. 1st, 1888.

Ground was broken for the new building Jan. 1st, 1889, and the corner-stone laid Feb. 27th of the same year.

Rev. S. P. Hughes, D. D., preached the sermon for the occa-



Christ Church, Milton

sion, assisted by Dr. P. Born, Dr. F. P. Manhart and Rev. S. G. Shannon.

The building was erected as speedily as possible, and on May 5th, 1889, was occupied for the first time, although not completed.

The dedication of the church took place October 6th, 1889, when Rev. J. H. Menges, D. D., preached the sermon, assisted by Dr. P. Born, Dr. J. R. Dimm and Dr. John Wagner.

This work was all accomplished by this devoted people without any aid from the Home Mission or Church Extension Boards.

Rev. J. A. Flickinger resigned as pastor on account of ill health, November 1st, 1890.

Jan. 4th, 1891, the Rev. M. S. Romig was elected as pastor and entered upon his duties a month later.

His pastorate extended to June 1st, 1894, when he tendered his resignation.

Rev. W. H. Fahs was elected as the third pastor July 15th, 1894, and entered upon his duties in September of the same year.

During this pastorate many improvements were made to the church building, and the debt considerably reduced.

Rev. W. H. Fahs resigned Nov. 3rd, 1896, to take effect Dec. 1st, 1896.

Rev. M. H. Havice was elected as the next pastor Jan. 17th, 1897, entering upon his duties in February of the same year.

His installation took place May 20th, 1897.

In the spring of 1899 many church improvements were made, the building was painted, frescoed, pews placed in auditorium, taking the place of the chairs used until then.

The marble steps placed at the entrance of both front doors, and a beautiful chandelier placed in auditorium, were the gifts of Mrs. Martha Farley and Mr. Michael Farley.

The rededicatory services were held April 9th, 1899. Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D., and Rev. I. H. McGann, D. D., preached the sermons. \$1,346.00 were subscribed during the day, covering the total indebtedness.

July, 1901, the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the congregation presented to the congregation a very beautiful individual communion set, which was very gratefully received.

In March, 1903, the auditorium was beautifully carpeted at a cost of \$318.00.

Rev. M. H. Havice after a service of over seven years resigned as pastor June 1st, 1904, to take effect July 1st of the same year.

The compiler of this history, and the present pastor, Rev. I. P. Zimmerman, A. M., was unanimously elected September 11th, 1904, and assumed charge October 17th, of the same year.

For various reasons, and conditions the congregations had resting upon it again an indebtedness of \$1,300.00 when the present pastor took charge.

At the January, 1905, congregational meeting, the pastor asked permission to solicit subscriptions to cancel the indebtedness, which request was readily granted. Much interest was manifested, and money came in very encouragingly, so that after all

floating obligations were met, a five hundred dollar mortgage was also cancelled and burned September 3rd, 1905, at a public service. Many improvements were made during the remainder of the current year.

February 4th, 1906, at a congregational meeting the pastor reported the total amount of the indebtedness in hand within a few dollars, which was raised immediately amidst great enthusiasm.

The final mortgage and note burning took place February 18th, 1906, the same amounting to six hundred and thirty dollars. A very enthusiastic congregational meeting followed when further improvements were agreed to be made.

The total amount of indebtedness and interest paid in thirteen months amounted to fourteen hundred dollars.

March 26th, 1906, the congregation presented to the pastor a beautiful gold watch valued at seventy-five dollars, as a token of their appreciation of his arduous labors.

On the 20th of June, 1906, a compensating pipe organ was placed in the auditorium, and dedicated on the twenty-fourth of the same month. Rev. F. P. Manhart, D. D., preached the dedicatory sermon.

During 1907 repairs to the library, lecture room, pastor's study and rear vestibule were made at a cost of \$510.00, all provided for.

During 1908 the auditorium of the church and front vestibules were repaired, the ceiling being covered with metal and beautifully painted, and the walls frescoed, at a total cost of \$1,335.00, all provided for before the day of re-dedication, which took place August 30th, 1908, when Trinity Lutheran congregation kindly closed its doors, and in large numbers worshiped with us, while their former pastor, Rev. W. H. Gotwald, D. D., preached the sermon, and their present pastor, Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder, D. D., assisted in the services. At this service also a marble baptismal font was presented to the congregation by Mrs. J. M. Foust, now gone to her reward.

During 1912 a canvass was made for the introduction of the duplex envelope system which was used for the first time January 1st, 1913.

July the 6th, 1913, the 25th anniversary of the organization

of the congregation was observed, and very interesting statistics given.

During May, 1916, an altar and new pulpit chairs were presented to the congregation by the Ladies' Aid Society, and two organized Sunday School Classes, as well as two Bible for pulpit and reading desk, presented by a class and a friend in the Sunday school.

By the time this History will appear in print, the longest pastorate of the congregation will have reached twelve years, if God spares the life of the present incumbent; a relationship which has not been without discouragement and disappointments, but a relationship of the utmost harmony and co-operation between pastor and his council and congregation.

During these twelve years 606 members have been added to the church, \$12,126.00 paid for benevolence, and \$26,865.00 for local purposes.

The prospects for continual growth and development at this writing are very encouraging.

May God have all the praise.

(Rev. I. P. Zimmerman resigned Oct, 31, 1916. Rev. J. A. Richter was installed March 4, 1917.)

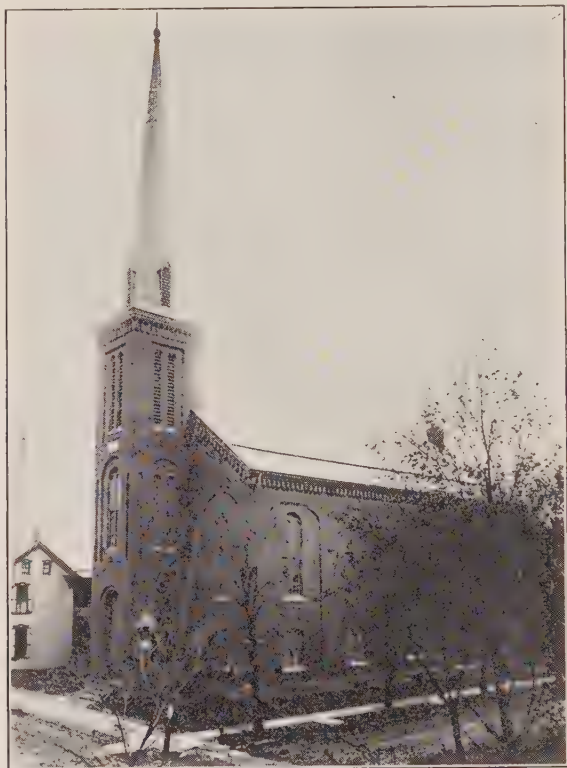
HISTORY OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, MILTON, PA.

REV. J. M. REIMENSYDER, D. D.

Trinity Lutheran Church of Milton, Pa., is one of the oldest and largest congregations in Central Pennsylvania. Its history covers a period of more than a century.

Like most of our congregations its early history is not contained in Church Records. As far back as 1796, services were occasionally held in Milton by a German Lutheran minister as he passed through the vicinity. Milton had early settlers of the Lutheran faith. Services were held at this time in a log building on Lower Market street. This building was erected for both the purpose of worship and education. From 1796 to 1802—services were held in this building, at intervals. However there is no record of an organization. In 1802, the Lutherans

transferred their place of worship to a new school house on Broadway. Meetings were conducted at this place until 1807. At this later date in union with the German Reformed Church a lot was purchased on Mahoning street and a substantial log structure erected to serve the double purpose of worship and parochial schools. At this time there must have been a regular organization if not earlier; but no record remains, as most of



Trinity Church, Milton

the records, both of the church and members were destroyed in the great conflagration of 1880, which destroyed the church and most of the homes of the members.

These services were conducted by supplies, Revs. Eyre, Stock and Engle from 1807-1811.

In 1811, Rev. P. Repass became the first regular pastor. He

served as pastor, preaching in the new school house on Mahoning street, until 1817.

During his ministry a regular organization was effected and church officers chosen.

In 1817, the Lutherans, Presbyterians and Reformed congregations joined in the erection of a church edifice out along Mahoning street and facing the town. A large cemetery still marks the spot and some of the old foundation has remained. The present pastor when a small boy once attended services conducted in this building. This was called "The Harmony Church." It was designed to be one of the largest and finest church edifices in Central Pennsylvania. It had large galleries and a sounding board, with a high pulpit. The corner-stone was laid on October 5th, 1817. The pastors of the three congregations conducting the exercises and ceremonies. The dedication took place May 23rd, 1819. At this time Philip H. Schroyer is mentioned as elder and John Hill as deacon.

In 1850 the Lutherans sold their interest in this enterprise and withdrew.

Rev. F. Waage came to Milton in 1826. He was the first resident pastor, the pastors at this period serving many adjacent places.

The Sunday School was organized in 1840 as a Lutheran school August 9th, 1847.

During the pastorate of Rev. (Hon.) J. J. Reimensnyder, father of the present pastor, the first Lutheran Church was dedicated on Mahoning street May 4th, 1851. The present pastor of the church was confirmed in this church when in his thirteenth year.

The first Bible Class was organized July 18th, 1854. The Primary Department was organized November 5th of the same year. During the pastorate of Rev. George Parson, it was decided to sell the old church and a new site was selected on the corner of Mahoning street and Garfield avenue, where the present building now stands. The new building was a fine structure, large and well furnished. It had the highest spire in this vicinity.

The building was erected and furnished at a cost exceeding \$30,000. The corner-stone was laid August 25th, 1867. The church was dedicated May 8th, 1870, during the pastorate of

Rev. U. Graves. Rev. J. A. Brown, D. D., president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, preached the sermon.

In the great fire of May 14th, 1880, which practically destroyed the town, this church was burned with all of the others.

May 17th, 1880, it was resolved to rebuild on the same foundation, part of the walls still standing. The present church was erected on this same foundation and dedicated March 26th, 1882. Dr. W. M. Baum preached in the morning and Dr. L. E. Albert in the evening.

The present pastor, Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder, D. D., took charge as pastor September 1st, 1887, and has served 29 years.

During the present pastorate the congregation has more than doubled its membership and its contributions.

Many substantial improvements have also been made, and the Sunday School is one of the largest and most up-to-date in Central Pennsylvania. The Sunday School enrollment including the Cradle Roll and Home Department is 956. The congregation has 859 baptized members. The contributions for the past year amounted to \$7,231.36, of this amount \$1,794.69, was for benevolence. During the past two years, 240 members were added. The congregation has the largest church and Sunday School membership in the city.

During the present pastorate of 29 years the apportionment has always more than been met and the congregation has been out of debt, and has a handsome sum of money laid up for a new church edifice which it soon hopes to erect.

The amount of money contributed for all purposes during the present pastorate is \$103,623.40, of this amount \$23,829.83 was for benevolence, \$16,000.00 was expended for improvements upon the church property and a fine pipe organ placed.

1,208 members have been added during the present pastorate. The Woman's Missionary Society of this congregation was organized in 1873 and is one of the most potent organizations of the church. It has 59 active members.

In 1910 a fine church bell was presented by the congregation to our mission at Guntur, India, all expense of transportation being met by the congregation. A few years prior to this, one was presented to our African Mission, which is still doing service.

There has been no year in the present pastorate without accessions. The largest number of members added any one year was 190. The average annually for the past 29 years has been over 41.

The congregation and its pastor are firm believers in a conservative Lutheranism. No emotional or sentimental methods have ever been used. Reliance is placed upon the preaching of the pure Word of God, the administration of the Sacraments and the careful and regular catechisation of the young, firm reliance is placed in the Lutheran interpretation of the Scriptures and the historic creed and customs of the church. Thus through a long pastorate, trusting in the Holy Spirit for help and guidance, a strong and reliable congregation has been built up upon a religious educational basis, which speaks for itself and gives good evidence of the benefit of long pastorates and consistent life and instruction. Trinity stands for a true spirituality in religion.

Pastors.

Rev. Eyre	}	Supplies 1807-1811
Rev. Stock		
Rev. Engle		
Rev. P. Repass,		1811-
Rev. F. Waage,		1826-1829
Rev. W. Garman,		1829-1830
Rev. C. P. Miller,		1831-1833
Rev. J. G. Anspach (supply),		1836-1837
Rev. C. F. Steover,		1837-1842
Rev. E. Swartz,		1842-1844
Rev. F. Ruthrauff,		1845-1850
Rev. J. J. Reimensnyder,		1851-1854
Rev. C. C. Culler,		1854-1860
Rev. T. T. Titus,		1861-1863
Rev. S. P. Sprecher,		1863-1865
Rev. George Parson,		1865-1868
Rev. U. Graves,		1868-1870
Rev. A. Buhrman,		1871-1873
Rev. W. H. Gotwald,		1873-1887
Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder,		1887-

GARMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, PINE CREEK TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, PA.

By REV. J. H. BARB, D. D.

The early history of the Garman Lutheran Church is the story of the beginning of Lutheran denominational life and work in the fertile and beautiful valley, at the confluence of Pine Creek and the West Branch of the Susquehanna. The records of this early period are very incomplete, but it is authentically established that at some time prior to 1845 Rev. Shultz, a German preacher, inspired with religious zeal and the Lutheran spirit of his native land, began, on his own initiative, a ministry to the Lutherans of this section and also in Nippenose valley, which has borne abundant fruit unto this day.

He established monthly preaching in the home of John Zigler, one mile west of Chatham's Run; and, on the same day, at farmer Brown's home in Pine Creek township. A communion service was held once a year—preaching and all the services were conducted in the German language. After the death of farmer Brown, Henry Garman, a resident of Pine Creek, induced Rev. Schultz to hold services in the Pine Creek school house.

In February, 1845, Rev. F. A. Barnitz, of Harrisburg, was sent to this locality as an English missionary by the East Pennsylvania Synod. After preaching every two weeks for about seven months at Zigler's and at the school house, he held a protracted service at the latter place, which resulted in a number of professions of faith. An organization was at once effected, with a charter membership of thirty, as follows: Henry and Hannah Garman, John and Mary Staver, Jacob and Sarah Hammersley, George and Elizabeth Lehman, Joseph and Rebecca Martin, Molly Kline, Heppy Kline, Rachel Frey, John and Sarah Knepling, Jacob and Sarah Kline, Catherine Esterline, Daniel Kline, John Yearick, John and Margaret Shiley, Mary Shiley, Michael and Catherine Wolf, Elizabeth Spong, John Bushey, Rebecca Myers, Mary Schaeffer, Daniel Gise. A Sunday School was promptly organized, which also has an unbroken record up to the school house and called Garman Evangelical Lutheran Church. (1847.)

In 1847 Rev. Barnitz resigned and was succeeded by Rev. Joshua Evans, who took charge in 1848. During his pastoral care the first church was built, and a burying plot laid out adjoining. Many of these faithful founders are now peacefully sleeping in this quaint old country church yard. Some of their descendants still constitute a part of the present German congregation; others had an influential part in the establishment of St. John's, Jersey Shore; and still others are now an important part of the congregation of Grace Church, Jersey Shore, and of Trinity, Avis, Pa.

Rev. Evans resigned in 1851. He was followed by Rev. Samuel Yingling, who served three years from 1851 to 1854. Rev. Thomas M. Flint, of Baltimore, succeeded Rev. Yingling but soon after coming to the charge failing health compelled him to retire, and Rev. Peter Bergstresser was called to the pastorate. He served three years. Rev. J. H. Fahs next served them a short period, and was followed by Rev. Wm. L. Heisler who continued in the field four years. Rev. Studebaker was the next pastor for a short time.

In 1866 Rev. B. H. Winton became pastor and served until 1869. During his ministry there were notable results from a special meeting. The numerical strength of the congregation was greatly increased and a new impulse was given to its life. In 1868 the charge in the locality consisted of Garman, Jersey Shore, and the Nippenose Valley congregations was divided and Jersey Shore and Garman were constituted a pastorate. After the resignation of Rev. Winton in November, 1869, Rev. W. H. Lentz (four years) and Rev. John M. Steck (five years) served the church until 1875. Then follow in the order named, Rev. John A. Bright, Rev. W. H. Schoch, Rev. H. T. Shadle and Rev. H. H. Flick up to 1897—and Rev. J. E. Zimmerman (three years), Rev. B. F. Kautz (two years), Rev. B. S. Dise, and Rev. J. Brubacker served the church up to 1912. May 1st, 1912, the present pastor, Rev. John H. Barb, D. D., took charge. The first church was built in 1846, and was destroyed by fire in 1889. In the same year it was re-built upon an adjoining lot donated by Henry Emory, and the old site made a part of the burying ground. The corner-stone was made by George W. Garman, Esq., and laid by Rev. John M. Steck, D. D. The new church

was dedicated in August, 1889 by Rev. Schoch assisted by Rev. Chas. T. Steck, D. D., and Rev. John M. Steck.

This church has always been associated with other congregations, forming with them a pastorate, and while it is the mother of all the Lutheran churches of this locality it has never been able to have the exclusive services of a pastor. It has just now achieved its greatest strength numbering eighty-five members. The church has recently been beautifully papered, handsomely refurnished throughout and painted. This mother church has constantly contributed of her own strength in members and money to the founding and establishing the Lutheran Churches of Avis, St. John's and Grace, Jersey Shore and Lock Haven.

ST. PAUL'S, MILLVILLE

BY REV. F. P. MANHART.

The people of Millville and vicinity erected what they called the Free Church during the year 1880. At the dedication Rev. O. D. S. Marcley, Lutheran pastor at Bloomsburg, preached. During the following January Rev. Frank P. Manhart preached in the Free Church for two weeks and then organized a Lutheran congregation with fourteen members. The congregation continued to worship in the Free Church until 1893 when the ground was purchased and the building still used was erected. In connection with the movement resulting in the erection of the church, the congregation was reorganized by Rev. P. A. Heilman, pastor at Bloomsburg.

The church building is of frame and is nicely located on ground of fair size and shaded by beautiful sugar maples.

For various periods the congregation formed a part of other charges and was served by the pastors of these respective charges.

The congregation was served for considerable periods by theological students from Selinsgrove. These included D. F. Giles, R. A. White, Chas. Lambert, L. P. Young, W. H. B. Carney and B. A. Peters.

Ministers who served as non-resident pastors of St. Paul's were Revs. S. P. Hughes, J. B. Burgner, and Frank P. Manhart. Mr.

Manhart served from Dec., 1905 to Oct., 1907, and from Feb., 1909 to April, 1916, a total of about nine years.

The resident pastors have been Revs. J. V. Bodine, 1881-1882, M. M. Albeck, 1897-1899, (18 mos.), J. H. Easterday, 1905-1906 (18 mos.) and J. E. Zerger, 1907-1908 (12 mos.)

There were considerable additions to the membership during 1916, by which the congregation was greatly strengthened.



St. Paul's Church, Nacogdoches

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE MONTGOMERY LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Montgomery Evan. Lutheran Church came into being on the evening of November 1st, 1886, as a result of a personal canvass of the Lutheran people of the town of Montgomery. Eighteen members were found willing to unite themselves with

the new organization. We could name this noble band, but we refrain from doing it because of needed space. Rev. H. A. Deitrich, then pastor of the White Deer charge, met the members at a private house on Broad street and there our church was born.

These were the first officers: Elders, William Menges and Benjamin F. Bardo; Deacons, P. F. Hartranft, Alfred Burley,



Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montgomery

William Welshans and D. W. Shollenberger, all of whom were duly installed by Brother Deitrich on November 3rd, 1886.

But the congregation was homeless. Without a permanent church home, and without stated times for preaching and without a preacher the congregation soon disintegrated but the seed sown was not lost.

On May 29th, 1888 Rev. J. A. Wirt, then Pres. of Susquehanna Synod appointed a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Lutheran congregation and this time thirty-two persons were willing to unite themselves in forming the congregation. The present name of the church was chosen at this meeting and a formula of church government was adopted.

At the meeting of the Susquehanna Synod held at Lewisburg

June 13th, 1888, the congregation was admitted into synod and her regular organization was duly recognized.

The Presbyterian congregation kindly consented to allow the use of their church for services at a rental of \$75 per year.

Steps were now taken to secure someone to supply the congregation with preaching and pastoral oversight. Rev. D. B. Treibley, then a student at Gettysburg, was secured to preach during his vacation from July 8th, 1888 to Sept., 1888.

At this time a choir was organized and steps taken to provide a suitable building in which to worship. The present position of the church was selected and a building committee was formed. After much sacrifice and solicitude on the part of the building committee and the congregation, the new church was on May 12th, 1891 dedicated, with appropriate services to the worship of God.

From this point let us briefly sketch the men who were the spiritual leaders of this noble band. Rev. J. A. Koser, then pastor of the Muncy charge was secured to take up the work in connection with his own. He began his work January 1st, 1889 and continued to January 1st, 1890. During his ministry the work was tendered Oct. 5th, 1891 to take effect January 1st, 1892.

On March 30, 1890, Rev. S. P. Orwig was elected as the regular pastor, and served the people until his resignation which was rendered Oct. 5th, 1891 to take effect January 1st, 1892.

On December 14th, 1891 a call was extended to Rev. S. M. Mountz, of Lairdsville, Pa., which was accepted and he began to serve the congregation January 1st, 1892. His pastorate continued to April 5th, 1896 when he resigned.

The congregation was without a pastor from April 5th, 1896 to January 1st, 1897, but the pulpit was supplied during this time. At a congregational meeting March 7th, 1897 Rev. D. E. Rupley, of Espy, was duly elected. Bro. Rupley resigned and severed his pastoral relations with the congregation Aug. 1, 1899. On Sept. 20, 1899, Rev. J. H. Lake, D. D., was elected as pastor, and began his work November 1st of the same year. Earnestly he worked, with a willing people helping him until death removed him. After a short interval Rev. M. H. Havice was chosen as the pastor. The parsonage was built at the beginning of his ministry. He and family soon occupying the house after being finished. This ministry was long and fruitful. Many

were added to the church, the benevolence increased, and a large addition was at this time made to the church. Large Sabbath School rooms were provided for the Primary, Beginners and Junior departments, with rooms for two large classes, one each for men and women. Rev. M. H. Havice resigned February, 1913, removing to Lakewood, Ohio, where he assumed charge. Rev. F. L. Bergstresser, D. D., then of Chambersburg, Pa., was next chosen as pastor. He was installed August, 1913, and his ministry is now before the people.

With a people co-operating, God has great things awaiting this church. The people are earnest and kind, sympathetic and helpful, and our ministry is one of joy. This brief sketch is fragmentary due to the imperious demand for space, but it will describe a church working for the Master in the past and wiling for the future.

Sincerely,

F. L. BERGSTRESSER.

LIBERTY CHARGE, TIOGA COUNTY.

BY REV. C. R. STREAMER.

It is impossible to state from our church records when Lutheranism first came into the Liberty Valley but the history of our congregations center definitely around Lutheran families who came direct from Germany to this section about 1800. The earliest church records extant indicate that the first congregations were union, being composed of Lutherans and Reformed, and that the present Frieden's Evangelical Lutheran Church (situated just across the Tioga county line in Blockhouse, Lycoming County, Pa.), stands near the site of the old log structure erected in 1827. So far as these records witness, it is possible the congregation existed before the church records were begun, as the early pastors did not keep historical data in a form to be handed down, but we find ministerial acts recorded in German as early as 1831 in the Frieden's Church Record Book. While the Zion's Church Book, union German Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed in Blockhouse, Liberty township, Tioga County, Pa., gives names of pastors and dates as follows: E. Peixoto, 1837-1840; L. Dietzsch, 1840-1842; D. B. Saur, 1842-1845; I. Noecker, 1845-1848; J. Fritzinger, 1852-1854;

J. L. Shade, 1854-1858; E. Studebaker, 1858-1865; J. G. Bruninger, 1865-; J. P. Shindle (no date); I. P. Neff, 1868-1872. It was during the latter pastorate of Dr. Neff in which the Frieden's Evangelical Lutheran Church was formally organized, October 21, 1871, with 57 signers to the application for incorporation, and the present two-story "brick" church was erected at a cost of \$7,000.



St. Paul's Church, Nanvoo

Rev. A. B. Miller came to Liberty Valley Charge as a young man on April 27, 1873, and found the Frieden's Church built but not nearly finished with a debt of \$1,435 resting on it which was paid off in his second year. Besides this congregation, he had the Zion Union Church of Briar Hill, previously referred to, and the old Salem Lutheran and Reformed congregations to serve. Early in his pastorate the St. Paul's Union Church, at Nauvoo, was built at a cost of \$1,275, of which sum the Lutheran people gave \$698, but gave equal rights to each of the other two denominations. Rev. Miller closed his first pastorate on Sept. 1, 1890, but was later unanimously re-elected pastor, taking charge a second time May 1, 1912, serving until in September,

1914, all told about 20 years, during which time he accomplished a great work. Rev. A. H. Shertz began his labors in this parish on September 1, 1890, but remained a little over a year. Rev. A. H. Weaver commenced his pastorate here January 1, 1892, and closed his work in December, 1894, but during his short stay the present handsome Salem edifice was erected at a cost of \$1,900, being dedicated free of debt Dec. 9, 1894. Rev. D. B. Lau became pastor April 1, 1895, remaining until December 1, 1900. It was during his pastorate (1897) the Sebring Church was built at a cost of \$2,000 and the Liberty church, the same year, at a total cost of about \$4,000. Rev. D. E. McLain took charge April 10, 1901, and served as pastor until July 20, 1909, when God called him higher. His body was laid to rest, by the side of his son Paul, in God's acre at Salem church. During his pastorate the indebtedness on the parsonage was paid and the churches were repainted, and otherwise improved. Rev. D. S. Weimer became pastor Jan. 16, 1910, closing his labors in the fall of 1911, when Rev. Miller (previously referred to) again served this charge for 2 years and 5 months.

The present pastor, Rev. Chas. R. Streamer, took charge in October, 1914, and in an humble way is trying to carry on the work of the Master, with the co-operation of a devoted people, in a way that will mean much for Christ and the Lutheran churches of Liberty Valley.

HISTORY OF THE REDEEMER CHURCH. WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

REV. J. E. DALE, PASTOR.

In accordance with the action of the Lutheran Ministerial Association of Williamsport, work was commenced with a view to the organization of a Lutheran congregation in the First ward, in the fall of 1888. The Sunday School was organized Nov. 11, 1888, Rev. Albert Bell presiding at the meeting. The Sunday School met in the Ross School building, arrangements being made also for services every Sabbath afternoon in the same place. In a short time, however, regular preaching was abandoned, the Sabbath School continuing. Rev. A. L. Yount

preached occasionally during the week and once in a while on Sunday afternoon.

The Sunday School was composed of material not easily discouraged, and they determined to build up a Lutheran Church in the eastern part of the city. To accomplish this they felt that they must have a chapel, and at a Teachers' Association, May 28, 1889, fifty dollars was voted as the first payment on the lot on which the church now stands. When the Association began



Redeemer Church, Williamsport

work they had but little more than two hundred dollars in the treasury.

The corner-stone was laid Sept. 14, 1890. Addresses were delivered by Rev. S. P. Hughes, of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rev. Bowman, of Savannah, Ga., and Rev. J. M. Steck, the first pastor. The work of completion went on under the direction of Bro. J. Heilhecker, to whose efforts largely can be attributed the success of the enterprise. He was assisted in collecting by Mrs. Ellis Tallman and Mrs. Henry Metzger. The Sunday School at the same time doing all it could toward the building.

But it was up-hill work for the little band, and sometimes it seemed that the effort to complete the building would have to be abandoned. But in their time of greatest need, the Association found warm-hearted friends of the enterprise in Mrs. Rosina Hess, and her children, Mrs. A. Neimeyer, Mrs. Henry Metzger and Godfrey Hess, and her grandchildren, Sophia and Louisa Neimeyer. Mr. David Stempfle also rendered liberal aid in money and work. Their timely help aided to bring the work to completion. A few days before dedication Mother Hess was called to the Better World. As a token of the church's regard for her deep interest in the work the bell purchased by the Ladies' Aid Society was made a memorial to her. She was a devoted member of the German Lutheran Church, while her children were members of St. Mark's.

The first services were held in the church on Christmas, 1890. The dedication took place January 18, 1891, the sermon being preached by Rev. J. M. Steck. Revs. Irvine and Thrall assisted on the occasion. Rev. A. L. Yount performed the dedicatory service.

Now that the church was completed, it was desired that an organization be effected. Up to this time there had been no decision made as to what Synod the congregation should unite with when organized. Those who had been especially interested in the building of the church, and had charge of the Sunday School, concluded that it would be best to unite with the Susquehanna Synod of the General Synod. The members of the Association, therefore, after consulting with those who had been most liberal in the effort to build, decided to unite with this body.

After this decision had been reached Rev. J. M. Steck was invited to organize the congregation after consulting with Rev. Yount, as nearly all of those belonging to the Association were connected with the St. Mark's Church. His consent was received. Services were conducted for two weeks in the evening, in which assistance was rendered by other Lutheran pastors of the city and at the same time a canvass of the community was made. The organization was completed April 12, 1891. There were forty-two united at this time. Rev. I. Irvine assisted in the service. Rev. J. M. Steck was then chosen as a regular supply. An application was at once made to the Board of Home Missions for aid, which was granted, and Rev. J. M. Steck was ap-

pointed Missionary beginning his work in that capacity July 1, 1891.

This history so far has been taken from that written by Rev. Steck himself as the first pastor in which he says further: "Though few in number, and with little financial strength, yet as a band of workers in the church and Sunday School we never found any better in the years of our ministry."

Since then the church has been growing steadily. They have been self-supporting since May, 1903, and have purchased a property on which they have built a modern equipped parsonage. The church, to-day, has a confirmed membership of nearly three hundred and a Sunday School totaling in all departments over four hundred.

List of Pastors.

Rev. J. M. Steck,	1891-1894
Rev. G. F. Snyder,	1894-1899
Rev. J. G. Griffith,	1899-1903
Rev. J. F. Knittle,	1903-1911
Rev. H. O. Reynolds,	1912-1915
Rev. J. E. Dale,	1915-

ST. MATTHEW'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH, WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

REV. MORRIS F. GOOD, PASTOR.

St. Matthew's Church is located in that part of the city of Williamsport, west of Lycoming Creek, known as Newberry, the oldest section of the city. The congregation was organized on June 7th, 1891, in Wood's Hall, on Arch street, with eighteen charter members, by Rev. Isaac Irvine, then pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church of the city, and was served by him in connection with his work in St. John's until October 21st of same year. On the latter date Rev. Leander Goetz assumed charge, for a time conducting worship once a Sunday for St. Matthew's and once a Sunday for St. Luke's Lutheran church at Vallamont. It is interesting to note that these two churches and the Lutheran Church of the East End of the city were formed about the same time.

The work in St. Matthew's grew so fast that soon Rev. Goetz had to devote his entire time to this enterprise. On October 1st, 1892, the lot (103x150) situated on the southwest corner of Lima and Pearl streets, on which the church and parsonage now stand, was purchased for \$1,000, this probably being less than one-half of its present value. On July 16th, 1893, the cornerstone of the present building was laid. On November 12th, 1893, the chapel was opened with appropriate services and sincere gratitude. The day chosen for the dedication of the completed structure costing \$6,000, was May 20th, 1894, but on ac-



St. Matthew's Church and Parsonage, Williamsport

count of the memorable flood of that year, on this very day, these beautiful and inspiring services were postponed until August 26th of the same year, when with great rejoicing the church was set apart for the use of divine service and worship of the Triune God.

The first church council consisted of the following: Elders, Benneville Grimes, John Haag; deacons, Thomas Sheidy, Henry Stahlnecker; trustees, John Mertz, John Mosteller, all of whom except the first two still living.

A brief historical sketch written for the tenth anniversary of the congregation states that from the best record obtainable the Sunday School was organized July 26th, 1891, with John

Mertz as the first superintendent. The Young People's Society was started in 1892, the Ladies' Aid Society in 1893, and the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society in 1894. Of the eighteen charter members thirteen are living and eight of these are in good standing.

An event that deserves special mention was the farewell service given on October 10th, 1894, in honor of Miss Jessie Brewer, who went out from this church as a missionary to India and for twenty years did most faithful and noble work for the Lord in that far-off, heathen country. At the present time Miss Brewer is in her native land engaged in the special work of Field Secretary under the auspices of the Board of Foreign Missions for organizing of new Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary societies throughout the General Synod.

At a congregational meeting held in the latter part of April, 1901, it was decided with much satisfaction and enthusiasm that after the first of June of that year the congregation should become self-sustaining, by meeting its obligation to the Board of Church Extension. At the same time an encumbrance of \$500 on the parsonage which was erected at an original cost of about \$2,000 was lifted to the encouragement of all friends and members of the church.

In this year of our Lord 1916 the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of St. Matthew's, the confirmed membership has grown to nearly 400 (391), the Sunday School, including officers, teachers, Cradle Roll and Home Department, to 476, with Dr. A. Monroe Hall as the live and efficient superintendent, the Young People's to 98, including the Junior Society, the Ladies' Aid Society to 29 and the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society to 30. Within recent years there has been organized and maintained a Brotherhood class in the Sunday School, having a membership of about 50. The entire church property, including a beautiful, modern parsonage, having an ideal location, is free of debt, estimated at a value of \$15,000. The congregation is on a substantial basis in its financial activities, it being the rule absolutely followed out in recent years to far exceed the apportionment for benevolences and meet all current expenses with a healthy margin from month to month. This is due in large part to an interest developing out of a normal spiritual growth in grace. The Sunday School is among the best

organized in the Synod, making its influence for good deeply felt in the congregation and community among young and old. The other organizations are performing their parts well for Christ and His church. It must be said to the credit of those who directed the organization of this work that they did well, laying a solid foundation for a strong and flourishing church, so that it is now gradually becoming evident that the congregation is outgrowing its present quarters for worship and especially for its Sunday School work and, therefore, there is a strong and increasing sentiment in the congregation that there should be a more churchly edifice with better equipments for the different organizations. The congregation has been served by six pastors, as follows:

Rev. Leander E. Goetz, from Oct. 21, 1891, to July 1, 1895.

Rev. Sydney E. Bateman, from Oct. 18, 1895, to May 1, 1899.

Rev. Foster U. Gift, from June 10, 1899, to April 10, 1904.

Rev. Frederick W. Meyer from May 8, 1904, to Aug. 1, 1908.

Rev. John W. Weeter, from Oct. 1, 1908, to Sept. 1, 1913.

Rev. Morris F. Good, from Dec. 1, 1913, to present time.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA.

BY REV. W. F. RENTZ.

In the lumber office of John A. Otto & Sons a small white building at the foot of South Grier St., and now a part of the Rishel Furniture Company; for a long time prior to 1874, Howard Otto held meetings for the betterment of that locality. Portable seats were constructed. The people became very much interested.

On October 25, 1874, in the afternoon they met in the same office for the purpose of organizing a union Sabbath school. The school grew in such numbers that they were obliged to move into what was then known as the Clay school building, on the corner of Vine and Rose Sts. Held the last session in this place Sept. 17, 1882, after which the school was moved into the new chapel built on the corner of Rose St. and Erie Ave., on the site now occupied by the office of the present Lycoming Rubber Company plant.

Later the Rubber company bought the ground and the chapel was moved to its present site on the corner of Grier St. and Erie Ave.

St. John's Lutheran church was organized January 2, 1875, in the office of Mr. H. Howard Otto. While without a pastor, the members of the church conducted Sunday school and prayer



St. John's Church, Williamsport

Rev. W. F. Rentz

meetings and Revs. Winekoop, J. P. Neff and Geo. Eicholtz supplied them with preaching. In the trials incident upon the founding of the congregation, Elder Hiram Mudge, a Presbyterian, rendered valuable and encouraging assistance.

Rev. A. N. Warner was the first pastor of the congregation. Through his labors and influence St. John's and Messiah's congregations severed their connection with the Montoursville church and were organized into what was then called the Williamsport Mission, of which Rev. A. N. Warner became the missionary. During his ministry the chapel near the present Rubber Works

was built. Brother Warner's health failed him and Rev. J. M. Steck, who organized St. John's, while pastor of the Jersey Shore Lutheran church, became pastor of St. John's and Messiah's on the south side. In four years of faithful work, all debts were paid and the membership increased from twenty-two to one hundred and six. Directly after Rev. Steck resigned St. John's, the mission was divided and St. John's separated from Messiah and assumed self-support.

Rev. Albert Bell was called and took charge Feb. 1, 1888. His faithful ministry closed at the end of two years. From March until the 15th of June 1890, Rev. J. M. Steck served as supply.

June 15, 1890, Rev. Isaiah Irvine became pastor. After a brief but successful ministry he died, May 7, 1893.

Rev. C. C. Benson was elected pastor and took charge August 1, 1893. Brother Benson had a very successful pastorate and left a deep impression upon the church and community. While in the midst of his usefulness, he died, March 10, 1897. The chapel was removed from the corner of Rose St. and Erie Ave. to its present site during Brother Benson's pastorate.

Rev. W. H. Harding took charge as pastor June 15th, 1897. Preached farewell sermon Oct. 15, 1899. The congregation and Sunday school both grew in interest and numbers during his ministry.

Rev. L. L. Lohr began his ministry at St. John's Feb. 1, 1900. During his pastorate a fine parsonage was built costing \$4,500.00 and a number of repairs made in the chapel.

After the successful ministry of Brother Lohr, the present incumbent, Rev. W. F. Rentz, was elected pastor of St. John's and took charge Feb. 1, 1908. It was under his pastorate that the money was chiefly gathered for the erection of the new church. Monday evening, May 1, 1916, ground was broken for the new St. John's. Sunday, Aug. 6, 1916, the corner-stone was laid with interesting and appropriate services. Rev. F. P. Manhart, D. D., preached the sermon. He was assisted in the services by Rev. M. Hadwin Fischer and Rev. A. E. Renn, D. D., from Indianapolis, Ind. The corner-stone was laid by the pastor, Rev. W. F. Rentz. The attendance was large and the services impressive. At present writing, Nov. 6, 1916, the new church building (i. e. the auditorium) is nearly under roof and it is expected to be ready for dedication on or before Easter, 1917.

Under the present pastor there have been 652 accessions and 212 by infant baptism. The members of St. John's congregation should ever remember gratefully the self-sacrificing labors of the charter members of the church and other members of this household of faith. The following were some of the original members of St. John's. Names so sacred and precious that they ought never to die out of the memories of those who worship in this holy place:

M. L. Kline,	Elias B. Folmer,	Margaret Marks,
Joel Kline,	W. J. Foster,	Mary A. Marks,
Andrew Myers,	S. A. Foster,	Christian Rinehart,
Hettie A. Meyers,	Erastus Wm. Ritter,	Elizabeth A. Rinehart,
Hezekiah Conner,	Martha M. Ritter,	Annie E. Rinehart,
Susan Conner,	Archie McVaugh,	William H. Rinehart.
	John Marks,	

These all but one (Miss Mary A. Marks) have gone to their rest and reward and their works will follow them.

And now, beloved brethren of St. John's, those who are bearing the heat and burden of this work to-day. Suffer me to bring unto you this final word of exhortation:

"Wherefore, my beloved Brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know, that your Labor is not in vain in the Lord."—1 Cor. xv: 58.

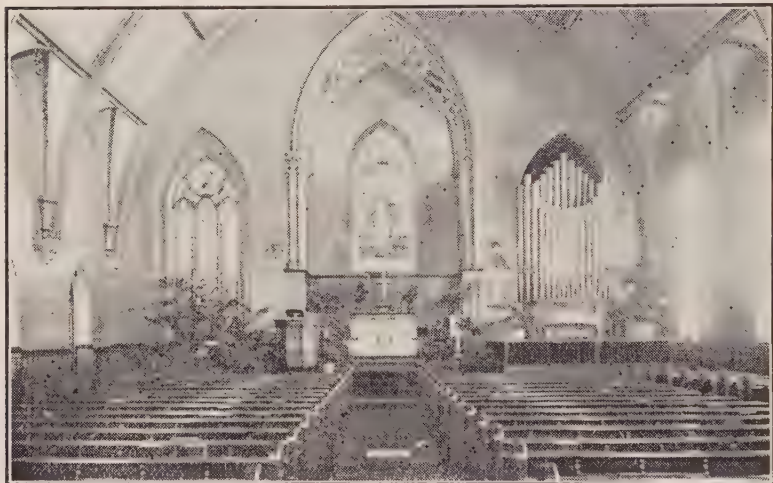
BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S.

WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

By REV. C. G. BIKLE.

The early records of St. Paul's church are so confused that even the date of its organization are differently given in the histories of the congregation prepared by the last two pastors, but after consulting with the one who made the motion out of which grew the formation of the organization, we have decided that the date was April 9th, 1871. About a month preceding this time a group of members of what was then called the First Lutheran church and is now known as St. Mark's (General Council) dissatisfied with some methods that concerned particularly the

Sunday school, decided to withdraw their membership and form a new congregation. The Academy of Music was secured for their services and the first sermon there was preached by the Rev. Joel Schwartz, D. D., of Carlisle, on March 12th. The offering on that first Sunday was twenty-six dollars. It was Easter Sunday morning of 1871 that the organization was consummated through a motion made by J. C. Hill, Esq. The committee to draft the Constitution consisted of S. E. Furst, J. C. Hill and A. J. Weise and at this meeting they presented it and



St. Paul's Church, Williamsport

it was adopted, giving the name "The Fourth Street Lutheran Church" to the new organization. There were sixty-four charter members, of whom eight are yet members of St. Paul's: Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Renninger, Mrs. A. H. Heilman, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hill, Mrs. Mary A. Hemperly, Dr. George W. Klump, H. Howard Otto. The following Sunday the first sermon was preached to the new congregation by the Rev. M. Rhodes, D. D. July 9th the Rev. Joel Schwartz was elected the first pastor, beginning his ministry on the 10th of Sept. Following. The sixteenth day of July the Sunday school was organized in the United States hotel, the sessions of the main school being held in the dining room and of the "infant" class on the back porch, when the weather permitted, and at other times in the kitchen

of the old hotel. The hotel then stood where the First National bank building now stands on West Third St. I. N. Kline was the first superintendent, the total number present at the first session being 50. Both the congregation and the school later used the Academy of Music until 1873, when the chapel was built on William St. on a lot purchased for \$6,000. About this time, the pulpit of the First Presbyterian church becoming vacant an effort was made to unite these two congregations, but failed. The committee on the building of the new chapel consisted of J. B. Duble, J. C. Hill and James R. Wagner. The architect was A. S. Wagner. The history at this time shows that "the treasury was lamentably low in funds." June 4th, 1873, the new chapel was dedicated and the following month Dr. Schwartz resigned. He was, however, persuaded to remain until the close of the year 1874. During 1875 steps were taken to unite St. Mark's and the new church now known as St. Paul's, the name having been changed on May 21, 1874. Just when this plan seemed to be succeeding, for some unrecorded reason it was suddenly given up. After much disappointment the congregation finally called as pastor, the Rev. George Parsons, his pastorate, however, being of short duration, extending from October, 1875, to December, 1876. At this time the congregation was in such a discouraged condition that it announced that it could pay only \$800 salary when it had formerly paid \$1,500. After serving a short time as supply the Rev. T. F. Reeser became pastor on December 23, 1877, continuing until May 1st, 1881. It was during Mr. Reeser's ministry that the Board of Church Extension loaned the congregation \$2,000, laying some conditions on the congregation concerning other items of its indebtedness. At the conclusion of Mr. Reeser's pastorate the congregation was for the third time in its brief history left without the services of a pastor, supplies being obtained as often as possible. A new era of prosperity and progress came to the congregation with the securing of the Rev. S. P. Hughes as pastor. His ministry began November 10th, 1881, continuing for ten years exactly, as long as the ministeries of all the previous pastors and closed for no manifest reason. Before his pastorate the congregation had twice planned to disband or be absorbed, ministers had refused to stay under the hard conditions, others had refused a call and the congregation was small and dispirited. When his pastor-

ate came to a conclusion the change in conditions with the congregation was remarkable. Beside the rather inadequate chapel under his inspiring leadership an attractive and spacious auditorium was erected and in addition a chapel (St. Lukes) was erected as a mission in what is now Vallamont. The congregation had resumed its Lutheran bearing and was becoming a potent force in the life of the growing city as well as in the Synod of which it was now a part. A debt of nearly \$9,000 at the close of his ministry takes little from the credit of his fine services for conditions over which he had no control, including a disastrous flood, were largely responsible. At the conclusion of his services the Rev. J. M. Anspach, D. D., became the pastor and for twelve years (1892-1904) gave St. Paul's a fine ministry, by the year 1896 clearing it of debt and each year adding to its membership and its worth. Dr. Anspach was a remarkably fine preacher and his memory is held sacred in the hearts of the older members who yet remain in St. Paul's.

After being supplied a few months by the Rev. P. H. Mullen, the congregation called the present minister, the Rev. Charles George Bikle, as pastor, and in December, 1904, his services began. In 1905 the property occupied by St. Luke's as a mission of St. Paul's was formally presented to that congregation. In 1908 the church was rededicated after improvements costing about \$10,000 had been completed. Palm Sunday, April 9, 1911, at the Fortieth Anniversary of the organization of the church, forty new members were received and announcement made that \$4,000 of the improvement fund had been pledged and when paid cleared the church from all indebtedness. At the present writing the church membership, which at the organization was 64, is 480 and the church has a high standing in the community and synod of which it is a part.

ST. LUKE'S

Williamsport, Pa.

BY REV. M. H. FISCHER, PH. D.

St. Lukes is a daughter of St. Paul's. The fathers of this vigorous church saw the need of a church to minister to the



St. Luke's Church, Williamsport

families moving into the new section of the city called Vallamont. On August 31, 1890 the St. Paul's congregation resolved to build on lots secured at the corner of Brandon avenue and Elmira street. The matter was placed in the hands of a committee composed of Messrs. J. C. Hill, Esq., A. H. Heilman, W. C. Gilmore, Esq., H. P. Stryker and John M. Otto. The money spent on the lots and the building was \$2,476.24.

On May 17, 1891 a Sunday School was organized with Mr. A. H. Heilman as Superintendent. The school continued with varying success under different leaders until November, 1896. A new impetus was given the work on November the 8th when Rev. H. Q. Shadle, assistant pastor of St. Paul's began regular supply work with a view of organizing a congregation by the next Easter. But the work was hampered by the illness and death of Rev. Shadle in the early part of 1897.

Though retarded the work went on and a little flock of thirteen was gathered by May of the same year. On the morning of May 23 a constitution was adopted, with the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Harding, Mrs. M. J. Ernest, Lilian Frantz, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Stoll, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Mayer, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Homan, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Irvin and Elizabeth Frantz. After a sermon preached by the Rev. J. M. Anspach, D. D., pastor of St. Paul's, an organization was effected by the election of the following officers: Elders, W. M. Irvin and Howard Homan; Deacons, J. G. Mayer and C. E. Harding; Trustees, H. S. Smale, James Smith and W. J. Stoll. They were promptly installed and steps were taken to interest the Home Mission Board of the General Synod in the undertaking.

The chapel was dedicated at the morning service, May 30, 1897 by the Rev. J. M. Steck, D. D. The sermon was preached from Ezra 6:16. The pulpit was supplied during June by the Rev. S. M. Mountz.

In August 1897 the Rev. W. A. Trostle became pastor. He served until April 1, 1899.

Rev. W. B. Lahr served the church from June 1, 1899 to February 28, 1900.

Rev. S. P. Hughes served from May 7, 1900 until May, 1901, but through illness was unable to fill the pulpit after February.

Rev. I. Hess Wagner was engaged as supply pastor in February, 1901. So acceptable were his services that he was called

to become the regular pastor on the death of Rev. Hughes. He continued to lead the congregation until February 1, 1909. Several advanced steps were taken under his ministry. The congregation became self-supporting from May 1, 1905. This step was fittingly celebrated with special services June 18, and 19. At this time the St. Paul's congregation transferred the deeds for the property to the members of St. Lukes. This was matter of great encouragement to the young but growing organization. They were incorporated by the courts September the 4th, 1905, and having since continued a gradual but substantial growth.

Rev. M. Hadwin Fischer, Ph. D., was called to St. Luke's and became pastor June 1, 1909. The Sunday School was reorganized and the attendance soon outgrew the capacity of the old chapel. At a congregational meeting February 1, 1910 it was decided to erect a more commodious building and the following committee was appointed: Adam Rothfuss, J. M. Winder, J. E. Swarm, D. E. Sheef, J. E. Rothfuss and Rev. M. H. Fischer. Mr. Truman P. Reitmeyer was asked to prepare plans and early in April the contract was let to Mr. A. C. Everhart. The cornerstone was laid with fitting ceremony July 24, 1910, by the Rev. J. H. Barb, D. D., President of the Susquehanna Synod, assisted by the local Lutheran pastors.

The first service was held in the new church on the evening of March 8. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Charles George Bikle, pastor of the mother church. Greetings were presented by the Rev. John W. Weeter, D. D., pastor of St. Matthews. On Thursday evening the vesper service was conducted by the Rev. W. F. Rentz, pastor of St. John's and the sermon was preached by the Rev. E. C. Armstrong, D. D., who brought the greetings of the Williamsport Ministerial Association. The new pipe organ was formally opened by a concert given by Prof. E. E. Sheldon, assisted by Mrs. E. E. Sheldon, music teachers in Susquehanna University, and Miss Clara L. Snow, on Friday evening. On dedication day the sermon in the morning was preached by the Rev. R. G. Bannen, D. D., of Messiah's. At the evening service the vespers were led by the Rev. J. F. Knittle of the Church of the Redeemer and the sermon was preached and the dedication pronounced by the Rev. J. H. Barb, D. D., President of Synod

After the dedication of the new church the old chapel was made into a modern parsonage. The contract was let to Mr. D. D. Moyer in April and the building was formally opened with a congregational reception November the 9th, 1911.

Through the interest of Mr. and Mrs. William Decker in work for boys and young men the basement of the church was equipped with gymnasium, reading rooms and game rooms. This part of the church has been regularly used several nights a week for boys' work from October to April. (From April to October provisions is made for tennis, base ball and other out-of-door sports.) The completion of the building enterprise was celebrated with a Men's banquet in the gymnasium January 18, 1912. The present property is valued at \$27,900.00.

During the last five years the church has grown into something of a community center for the northern part of the city. The Sunday School is fully organized and has a Men's Class of over 70. All organized classes hold monthly meetings. The young people support Junior, Intermediate and Senior Christian Endeavor Societies. The ladies have a live Ladies' Aid Society and a flourishing Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society. Under the Men's organization a male chorus and a live boy's work is maintained. They also have an organization for doing social work. Since February, 1912 a modern kindergarten has been conducted in the church under the direction of a board of lay directors and the pastor of the church. Miss Louise E. Rich is the efficient principal. She is provided with an able assistant.

The congregation now numbers 295, and the annual receipts average \$5,000.00.

MESSIAH'S, SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT.

REV. R. G. BANNEN, D. D., PASTOR.

In the summer of 1867 Rev. J. G. Griffith received a call from the Susquehanna Conference of the East Pennsylvania Synod at a salary of \$300 to do missionary work in Williamsport and vicinity. About Aug. 1st of the same year he preached his first



Messiah's Church, South Williamsport

sermon on the South Side, in the old brick school house to a little congregation of fifteen or twenty. He preached regularly at this point each Lord's day and during December held a series of meetings with some success. On Jan. 12, 1868, he organized Messiah's with a membership of the following ten persons: Jacob Weiss and Rosanna, his wife, H. D. Keyser and Sarah, his wife, J. B. McFadden and Elizabeth, his wife B. C. Longen and Mary, his wife, and John Reinhart and Christiana, his wife.

In the spring the congregation determined to build and the following committee was appointed: Rev. Griffith, Jacob Weiss, John Rickard and Henry Lutchter.

A lot was purchased for \$600 and the first payment made by a loan from some of this committee, without interest, that the building might begin at once. The original plan of the building was one-story with tower. This was changed, however, after the work was started to the two-story building now used as an apartment house.

The lecture room was dedicated Feb. 7, 1869, and the pastor was assisted by Rev. H. Ziegler, D. D., of Selingsgrove, Pa., who preached the sermon. Rev. Griffith resigned March 1, 1873, having gathered a membership of 46. In April, 1873 Rev. I. P. Neff M. D., was given a joint call from the "Rocktown" and Montoursville congregations.

The first year of his labors he had his residence among the people here and preached twice each Sabbath, alternating the morning and evening services between the two congregations.

The next spring he took up his residence at Montoursville, but the order of services was continued as above. Special revival services were held during the winter of Rev. Neff's pastorate and 47 accessions were made to Messiah's membership. Up to his time only the lecture room of the church had been finished and dedicated, but in 1876 the main audience room was completed. While the work of finishing the building was going on a committee of faithful women were busy securing money for the furnishings. Of this committee Mrs. Wilbur and Mrs. MacIntosh are still with us. The auditorium was dedicated May 7th. Rev. W. W. Criley preached the sermon and assisted the pastor. The remaining indebtedness of \$800 was all provided for by cash and subscriptions. This was a bright day for

Messiah and pleasantly remembered by some who still worship within her walls.

On March 15th, 1880, Rev. A. N. Warner accepted a call to the "Montourville Charge," consisting then of Montoursville, South Williamsport, Union School House and St. John's Mission of Williamsport. The salary was fixed at \$500 and some were in doubt as to whether this sum could be raised by the combined efforts of the four congregations. He preached at Montoursville every Sabbath and for the other congregations every two



Messiah's Parsonage, South Williamsport

weeks. Some of the people of the South Side became discouraged and at one of their council meetings proposed to disband and attend services in the city. To this Rev. Warner earnestly objected. The rolling mill was assuming operations. The foundation for the nail factory was just being laid, many of the people were beginning to buy lots and build homes. These elements of prosperity brought new encouragement. Much of the pastor's time was spent in building a house of worship for St. John's congregation. In June 1882 they carried a request to Synod that they be permitted to sever their relations with Montoursville, and St. John's and Messiah became a separate charge. Rev. Warner remained with them as pastor at a salary of \$720,

part of which was paid by the Home Mission Board. During the winter both churches enjoyed a precious season of revival and the membership and interest were greatly strengthened. He resigned on July 1st, 1883, on account of throat trouble, and Rev. J. M. Steck was chosen his successor. He assumed charge on Sept. 1, 1883, with a membership in the church of 40 and about 75 in the Sunday School. The report of the Mission at the close of the first year's labors showed an increase in the membership of both churches. Messiah's now numbering 80 and the Sunday School almost doubled. The most pleasant relations between pastor and people existed and the church and Sunday School continued to grow. Special services were held each winter, followed by catechetical instructions, resulting in much good. The debt on the old church was paid and the congregation was beginning to realize that a new church would soon be necessary. Through the wisdom of Rev. Steck lots were secured and plans for a new building were considered. The foundation walls were completed, when at the close of the fourth year's labor the health of the pastor was such that he felt unable to perform the work of the Mission and tendered his resignation. Following this a meeting of the joint council was called to consider the advisability of dividing the mission and Messiah's became a separate charge.

A call was extended to Rev. W. G. Thrall, who entered upon his work Dec. 1, 1887. The new pastor was kept busy securing funds and looking after the new building. The corner-stone was laid June 24, 1888, but the work was delayed and made more difficult by the disastrous "flood of 89." However, on Aug. 4th, the Sunday School met at the old church and lead by the pastor and superintendent, marched in glad procession to the beautiful chapel of the new edifice. Addresses were made by Revs. Yount and Hughes of the city and Dr. Born, of Selinsgrove.

The entire building was completed and dedicated on June 15, 1890. Rev. Menges, of Philadelphia, preached in the morning and Rev. Stublebin, of Lawyerville, N. Y., in the evening. The consecration service was conducted by the pastor.

Rev. Thrall resigned in the fall of 1891, leaving a membership of 219 and the beautiful new church as a lasting monument to his untiring labors.

Rev. R. G. Bannen, the present pastor, entered upon his work Nov. 1st, 1891. The church debt was paid. The Sunday School room was remodeled. A lot was purchased and a fine modern parsonage was erected. An excellent pipe organ and steam heating plant were installed in the church and the last improvement was the new Sunday School edition, including a beautiful children's chapel for the use of the primary department. The large art glass window of the Good Shepherd is dedicated to the children by Mr. W. D. Crooks, who for thirty-five years was the faithful superintendent.

In the twenty-five years the congregation has never failed to raise its full apportionment and has averaged for benevolence more than a thousand dollars annually. During the present pastorate 1,144 persons have been received into the church, which, after deducting the losses, leaves the present membership 725.

Rev. Bannen is the only surviving pastor who has served the congregation and Messiah's is the only charge he has ever served. At the recent celebration of their twenty-fifth anniversary the people presented their pastor with a fine new Reo automobile, as a token of their esteem.

THE WHITE DEER VALLEY CHARGE.

REV. S. F. THOLAN, PASTOR.

The White Deer Valley Charge is composed of three churches, Christ's, near Montgomery; Zion's, near Elimsport, and Messiah's, Alvira, Pa.

Christ's church, perhaps better known as the "Stone," had its beginning in the old log church which stood somewhere in the cemetery and belonged to the Presbyterian congregation. This log church was built some time between 1787 and 1790, the exact date is unknown. It was the only church in White Deer or Black Hole Valley for years. No one seems to know just when the first Lutheran congregation was organized. The Lutheran and Reformed congregations came into existence about the same time and both worshiped in this same building for many years, until in the year of 1845 the old log church was turned over to

these congregations. Two years later Christ's (Stone) church was begun. The corner-stone was laid about September 21, 1847. This we have because of the splendid memory of things pertaining to these times, of Robert Shaffer, who recently has gone to his Heavenly home. A builder by the name of Yost built the church at or about the same time he was building the Messiah church at Alvira. Some of the building material of the old log church was used in building the new one. It was built of stone on a plot of ground about a 100 yards directly northwest of the old site, and was not completed until the latter part of the summer of 1848.

The exact date of dedication I am unable to procure. It was erected and held jointly and also dedicated by the Lutheran and Reformed congregations, Dr. George Parson (Lutheran) and Rev. Weichand (Reformed) were in charge of the dedicatory services. In this structure the two congregations continued to worship until the Reformed organization disbanded.

At first the singing was led by a chorister or (fore singer). When the pulpit was placed at the opposite end of the room a choir was installed, having its place between the doors where the pulpit was. This choir was famed through the valley and was a factor in the remarkable success of the old Stone church.

Over fifty years it stood a land-mark of this valley, and from its beginning till 1878 was a part of the Muncy charge, when Rev. Flickinger was pastor. This building had served its day. In the year of 1906 it was torn down to make room for the present structure now standing on the same site. The new Christ's church is built of cement blocks and was erected in 1906 and 1907. The stone of the old building were crushed and placed in the concrete of the new. It is a beautiful church edifice, modern in all its arrangements, and one of the most handsome of rural church buildings, as considered by many, in Lycoming and other counties. It stands a monument to the enterprise and devotion to the good people of Christ's congregation and is a credit to the community. The corner-stone of this structure was laid July 29, 1906. The service on this occasion was held in the adjoining grove, the officiating clergymen were Rev. J. H. McGann, D. D., president of the Susquehanna Synod; Rev. J. M. Reminsnyder, of Milton, and Rev. A. E. Cooper. The church was not completed until late in the fall and was dedicated December 15, 1907, Dr.

McGann preaching the dedicatory sermon. It cost about \$12,000, all of which was paid or subscribed on the day of dedication. It was built without a basement, later this addition was considered necessary and the work of excavating was begun September 1913 and was completed and furnished January, 1914, at a cost of \$1,300.

The pastoral succession as nearly as can be ascertained I give below:

Rev. George Parsons, D. D.,	1844-1850
Rev. H. Ziegler, D. D.,	1850-1853
Rev. Philip Scheeder,	1853-1856
Rev. D. S. Truckamiller,	1859-1861
Rev. J. W. Schwartz, D. D.,	1862-1863
Rev. A. W. Lentz,	1863-1874
Rev. J. A. Flickinger,	1874-1878
Rev. A. W. Lentz,	1878-1881
Rev. H. A. Deitterich,	1881-1887
Rev. G. W. Stroup,	1887-1891
Rev. R. F. Fetterolf,	1892-1896
Rev. A. R. Glaze,	1896-1899
Rev. A. E. Cooper,	1899-1906
Rev. J. A. Richter,	1907-1910
Rev. S. F. Tholan,	1910-

ZION'S CHURCH.

This church grew out of a protracted meeting held in the Stone church in the years of 1844 to 1847 by Rev. George Parsons, D. D., then pastor of the Muncy charge, comprised of the Muncy church, St. John's of Black Hole, and Christ's church, of White Deer valley and was assisted by Rev. Weichend, of the Reformed congregations of Black Hole and White Deer Valley. The records of this congregation are very incomplete. For some of the history of the first building and congregation we are indebted to Mr. B. F. Gordner, who was confirmed in the old church nearly 60 years ago.

Daniel Bair, who owned the farm now owned by B. F. Gord-

ner, gave the ground for the church and cemetery. Upon this ground a frame structure was erected. Mrs. Daniel Bair, who was taken seriously ill and died before the church was completed, was the first to be buried in this cemetery just given by her husband. For a time the Reformed brethren were given permission to worship in this church. The exact date of organization is not known, the dedication was, however, sometime in the



Messiah's Church, Alvira, Pa.

year of 1847 and became an integral part of the Muncy charge until the charge was divided in 1878, when the Christ's church and Zion's formed what is now known as the White Deer Valley charge, and Rev. Flickinger was the first pastor of this new charge.

In 1892 the lightning struck in the cupola and this old frame structure was destroyed by fire. Some of the records also were destroyed, which is the cause of indefiniteness. Many people were disheartened when they saw their Zion in ashes and thought it could never be rebuilt. But with united efforts and generosity they finally accomplished what seemed almost impossible. The church is frame. The auditorium is 45x50 and cost about \$4,000.

It is a cozy and comfortable church and is a credit to the people. It was dedicated in December, 1893, with appropriate services in the presence of a large concourse of people. Rev. R. F. Fetterolf was then pastor, who was assisted in the service by Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder, D. D., of Milton, preaching the dedication sermon.

While Rev. A. E. Cooper was pastor a cellar was excavated from under a part of the building and a heater placed therein, which was finished and cemented during Rev. Tholan's time and a new heater installed December 1914. A new Vocalion organ and a new lighting system were installed in the spring of 1912. The lights costing \$138.00 and the organ \$400.00.

By action of Synod the Muncy charge, composed of Muncy church, St. John's Black Hole Valley, Christ's and Zion's, as this valley was divided in 1878. Christ's and Zion assuming the responsibility of supporting a pastor of their own. When the new charge was formed a new parsonage was needed.

In 1880 during Rev. A. W. Lentz's second pastorate, work was commenced and soon the house was finished at a cost of \$2,500. It is a neat, modern well arranged building and makes a desirable preacher's home. Each congregation holds a half interest. Messiah, a later addition to the charge, has no interest in it other than its upkeep.

MESSIAH CHURCH, ALVIRA, PA.

Messiah's church, Alvira, is probably the oldest congregation of the charge, according to records in the hands of the pastor. The first minute written is dated May 30, 1848, at which time the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That in humble reliance on Almighty God we now organize ourselves into a Lutheran congregation by the election of two trustees, two deacons and two elders. That whereas we have already purchased ground for the erection of a church and a place to bury our dead, and whereas we see so many of our German brethren without a spiritual guide who belong to no church, we will earnestly invite them to join in with us so that we may call a minister who will break to us the bread of life."



Zion's Church, near Elimsport

Henry Boyer and Peter Ludwig were elected elders; Jacob Heffner and David Strohecker, deacons; Joseph Deitrick and Peter Ludwig, trustees. Rev. S. R. Boyer, pastor at McEwensville, was invited to preach a trial sermon. On June 10, 1846, Rev. Boyer preached, and on August 1 was elected to become pastor, taking charge soon after. The congregation evidently worshipped in a private home for the first half year of its existence. At a congregational meeting July 6, 1848, it was decided to erect a frame building 45x55 on the ground previously purchased. This was a General Council church and belonged to the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. The corner-stone was laid June 6, 1848, by Rev. Boyer, assisted by Rev. J. G. Anspach, pastor of this Evangelical Lutheran church of Mifflinburg, Pa. The following proclamation was placed into the corner-stone: "This is to proclaim that the corner-stone of Messiah's church was laid on the sixth day of June, 1848, in Washington township, Lycoming county, Pa.

James K. Polk, president of the United States; George M. Dallas, vice president; Francis R. Shunk, Governor of Pennsylvania. On May 28th, 1849, this house of God having been completed was dedicated to Almighty God as an Evangelical Lutheran church with the particular name Messiah's church. The pastors who officiated on this occasion were Rev. R. J. Albert, pastor of the Lutheran church of Bellefonte. Rev. J. Kohler, pastor of the Lutheran church of Williamsport, Pa., and the Rev. S. R. Boyer.

It was near this time, before or after, when arrangements were made with the members of the Reformed church by which they were given privilege of worshipping in Messiah's church. The two congregations have continued to worship here ever since.

The following pastors served these people while they were connected with the Ministerium of Pennsylvania; Rev. S. R. Boyer remained pastor till 1859. Rev. Jacob Albert, the father of Rev. Chas. S. Albert, D. D., who was for 19 years the efficient editor of the Augsburg Teacher and Lesson Books, then became pastor and served the congregation till 1866.

Rev. T. C. Billheimer, D. D., who was up to a short time ago, professor of Hebrew at Gettysburg Theological Seminary, was then supply pastor for a few months, beginning May 10, 1867. Rev. Keller was then called and remained to break the bread of life to these people till 1870. Keller and Evans, the Reformed

pastor, held a union communion on Sunday, December 5, 1868.

After Mr. Keller's time there was no Lutheran pastor, according to the church book, until 1879, when Rev. J. W. Early became pastor and served the congregation for several years.

From this time the records are very unsatisfactory. Information comes to us that during these years of indefiniteness Rev. H. P. Phleuger, Rev. M. C. Horine, Rev. S. Henry and Rev. W. H. Rickert served the good people of this church.

For a number of years the Lutherans had no regular services. It was the only General Council church for miles. It at one time formed a part of the Turbotville pastorate, a distance of ten miles for the pastor to drive.

Its membership was continually growing weaker until finally this point was dropped from the charge and left without a shepherd.

In 1892, when Rev. R. F. Fetterolf became pastor of the White Deer Valley charge, he began looking up the Lutherans of that vicinity and found a number of families with children not attending services anywhere, yet were willing to help support a Lutheran minister. Steps at once were taken by these people to organize and seek admission into the Susquehanna Synod. At a meeting called for the purpose, it was decided to withdraw from the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, and make overtures to the Susquehanna Synod held at Northumberland, Pennsylvania, petitioning Synod to receive them as an integral part of the White Deer Valley charge, which was officially enacted. From this time the congregation has been served regularly by the following pastors:

R. F. Fetterolf,	1892-1896
A. R. Glaze,	1896-1899
A. E. Cooper,	1899-1906
J. A. Richter,	1907-1910

S. F. Tholan, the present pastor, since December 1, 1910.

Some years ago a difference arose between the two congregation and the corner-stone was broken open and robbed by some malicious person. To the Lutherans this remains a mystery to this day. The Lutherans during the pastorate of Rev. S. F. Tholan, sometime in 1912, proposed to buy the interest of the Reformed

or sell to them, but they would do neither. The two congregations then dissolved partnership and became independent. The Lutherans electing their own Secretary and Treasurer and at the same time organized an independent Sunday school, still holding to the old building. Messiah, which is an old landmark, was several times renovated and improved. During the summer of 1914 it was painted and papered on the inside, the Ladies' Aid of the Lutheran element bearing entire expenses, which was about \$400.00.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, DELAWARE TWP.,
NORTHUMBERLAND CO., PA.

REV. M. S. KEMP, LITT. D.

The earliest record of Lutherans in St. John's parish dates back to March 17th, 1737, when Conrad Weiser, another German, and three Indians, on a mission to Onandago from Governor Gooch, of Virginia, and the Pennsylvania authorities, paused within the shadow of the great pines of Delaware Run. Permanent settlers, however, did not arrive until the closing decade of the eighteenth and the opening decade of the nineteenth centuries. These came largely from Northampton, Berks and Montgomery counties. In their great high white-topped blue-panelled Conestoga wagons they treked through the passes of the Blue Ridge, or followed the windings of the Susquehanna, attended by their families and their household effects, and located in what was then a wilderness with no roads but Indian trails. Andrew Shaffer and Magdalena Garnhart, his wife, came in 1795. Jacob Garnhart came in 1797, while his father, Henry, came a few years later, locating in 1804 on the farm at Springtown. Peter Fogelman came in 1802-03. Stephen Nicely, Abraham Sterner, Jacob Doeblor, John Eyster, Andreas Hartranft, Valentine Bieber, George Hoffman, Daniel Fulmer, Heinrich Lantz, Solomon Menges and many others were settled permanently by the year 1814.

The exact date of the organization of a congregation is shrouded in the oblivion of the past. Probably as early as 1807 worship was held in the barns and under the great pines near the

present site of St. John's church. Tradition states that "for many years previous to a church building services were held." It is not improbable that an organized congregation existed at St. John's as early as 1810. The earliest record of a church building is found in the receipts of Mr. Abraham Sterner and is as follows:

"Received on the 17th of November, 1815, for the year 1816, from Abraham Starner, for sexton six dollars, for boards and shingles two and a-quarter (und fur schloss ein dollar fur die kirche zu machen) and one dollar for a lock to fasten the church door. Peter Culp."

Other receipts dating 1818 and 1819 show that work on the church was continued for several years. Perhaps, as in many cases worship was held in the building before the roof was finished. Tradition states that in its building each family having timber furnished as many logs as would go once around the edifice.

The land, one hundred and fifty-nine perches, was given by Daniel Fulmer, but was not recorded until 1826, three years after the testator's death.

This old church building was erected a little to the north and east of the present structure and faced the public road. The exterior was plastered and pebble-dashed. A log steps and porch gave approach to the double doors, which opened under the east gallery. A smaller door on the south gave entrance under the south gallery. The two aisles from these doors intersected before, the old fashioned wine-glass pulpit. The benches or pews were unpainted and straight backed, the rear ones in the galleries being raised to give better vision.

Here the Lutheran and Reformed settlers of the Muncy hills and of all the territory southward to Warrior Run met and worshipped, in the early days. The ritual was simple. No organ ever was used in the place and probably no artificial lights. The church officers sat 'neath the pulpit at the north; the men and boys, north of the main aisle; the women and girls, south of the main aisle.

The records of those days are very fragmentary. The first are financial statements of the church deacons, the earliest of which reads August 4th, 1821. The first church officers were Jacob Doeblar, Abraham Sterner, Solomon Menges, John Eyster and Peter Fogelman. The first baptism recorded is that of



St. John's Church, Delaware Township, Northumberland County

Abraham Sterner, Jr., May 1st, 1825, by Herr Jacob Repass, Lutheran preacher. The first communion record is dated June 7th, 1829, when thirty-five communed and twenty more were confirmed.

The following appear as members on the above date:

Johannes Nicely,	Anna Nicely,	Delia Zarbecker,
Esther Dentler,	Maria Wentzel,	George Ritter,
Elizabeth Karschner,	Johan Eister,	Frau Eister,
Gus Walter,	Julia Nicely,	Elizabeth Eister,
Peter Fogelman,	Balzer Garnhart,	Johan Sterner,
Sue Eister,	Laudenschlager,	Catherin Fogelman,
Johan Barto,	Maria Fogelman,	Elizabeth Fogelman,
Johan Fogelman,	Lewis Rice,	Frau Catherina Rice,
Johan Wertman,	Elizabeth Updegras,	Jacob Lilly,
Elizabeth Janer,	Johan Shutz,	Frau Wagner,
Benjamin Eyster,	Solomon Menges,	Frau Menges,
Stephen Nicely,	Abraham Sterner,	Barbara Garnhart,
Joseph Nicely,	Jacob Seiss,	Adam Gundy,
Frau Rebecca,	Frau Elizabeth,	Amos Fox,
Daniel Eyster,	George Mosteller,	Frau Anna,
Sarah Eyster,	Frau Susan,	Jacob Shirtz,
Valentine Bieber,	Conrad Hagenbuch,	Magdelene Shirtz,
Andrew Hartranfft,	Phineas Hagenbuch,	Eliz. Linn,
Frau Martha,	Christine Moll,	Maria Williams,
Jacob Doebler,	John Wertman,	A. Sheddy,
Frau Susanna,	Frau Eliza,	John Gernhart,
Jacob Peiffer,	Reuben Stewart,	Louisa Gernhart,
George Hoffman,	Maria Moorehead,	Joseph Eyster,
Catherine Hoffman,	Jacob Morehead,	Christian Gosh,
Frau Nicely,	Elizabeth Garnhart,	Marg. Gosh.

Thus they had a Lutheran membership of some eighty souls in 1829. It is a pity that no charter member roll exists. Most prominent among the charter members, no doubt, were Jacob Doebler, Solomon Menges, Abraham Sterner, John Eyster, Peter Fogelman, Stephen Nicely, George Hoffman, Heinrich Garnhart, Valentine Bieber, Andreas Hartranft and their wives. The first written constitution was in 1835 and consisted of twenty-three articles. The first pastor was Rev. Ferd. Engel, 1815-17, residing below Milton. Rev. Jacob Repass, of Milton, was pastor in 1825.

He was followed by Rev. Jared Sheetz, 1828-; Rev. Fred Woake or Waage 1829, Rev. Wm. German 1830, and Rev C. P. Miller 1831 came also from Milton. These pastors served Milton, Paradise, Turbotville, Washingtonville, McEwensville, and White Deer and other points. With the coming of the Rev. Charles Stoever, 1836, a parsonage was erected in McEwensville and the charge consisted of Washingtonville, Turbotville, McEwensville, St. John's and White Deer and possibly Paradise.

There appears to have been dissension between leading members of the church at this time. What it was is not apparent—perhaps a personal misunderstanding. It required the presence of Rev. J. P. Shindel, of Sunbury, at that time president of the Susquehanna Conference of the East Pennsylvania Synod, to settle the difficulty. There was mutual agreement to forget the past and treat each other as brothers.

The longest pastorate of the congregation was that of Rev. S. P. Boyer, 1846-59. Pastor Boyer was an active man, and the church roll speedily climbed from seventy-five to one hundred and fourteen souls. The sincerity of Rev. Boyer shows forth in his church records. Ambitious, choleric in temperament he was a man of power in his time. He was courageous and never wanted his cloth to protect him. At one time he flung off his coat in presence of an opponent with "Da ist der Prediger; hier ist der Boyer." He was a member of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, what we would call now "Old School." He was also a member of the General Synod when the Ministerium connected itself with that body in the fifties. In a resolution passed in 1856 we find the following:

"We cordially adopt the formula for the government of our church as published by the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church."

Yet the church's relationship to the General Synod depended upon the Ministerium's relationship as is evident from the following resolution of the same date:

"No minister shall ever be elected or received as pastor of this congregation who is not in regular standing with some Evangelical Lutheran Synod in these United States; and the minister who has charge of this church must always be a member, in good and regular standing of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and Ministerium of Pennsylvania and conduct worship according to the

direction of that venerable body." No "New Measures" ever had any sway in the old St. John's Gemeinde.

At the opening of Rev. Boyer's pastorate the charge included Washingtonville, Paradise, Turbutville, McEwensville, St. John's, and White Deer Valley with the parsonage at McEwensville; at the close, the parsonage was removed to Turbutville and Washingtonville, Turbutville, St. John's and White Deer formed one charge—while McEwensville, St. James-Turbutville, and Paradise and Follmer Churches formed a new charge. The change was due to the desire for a new church at Turbutville. Some one hundred and twenty-six members of the Lutheran congregation at the latter place with the pastor desired a new church of their own; a similar number desired a new union church. Both sides built churches. The new union church however mysteriously caught fire when finished and burned to the ground. There was much hard feeling at the time and vague suspicion which happily have been buried in oblivion.

The successor of Rev. Boyer was Rev. John Jacob Albert who served from 1859 to 1867. His memory is still precious to many souls. At the close of his pastorate St. John's determined to erect a new church. Though Father Albert resigned in the spring of '67 and retired from the active ministry at Turbutville he assisted in both the laying of the corner-stone and the dedication services. The former was in April 27th, 1867—the latter in late fall of the same year. Mr. Joseph Graven of the Reformed congregation gave for the sum of one dollar some additional ground. The contract price was three thousand, one hundred and fifty dollars—the congregation to furnish the brick and and stone. The brick was burned at the kiln of Robert Albert. Judge Joseph Nicely and Samuel Garnhart of the Lutheran and William Transue and Joseph Graven of the Reformed congregation were the building committee. John Beaver was the contractor. The dedication sermon was preached by the new pastor of St. James, Turbutville, Rev. (Dr.) E. J. Wolfe. The resignation of Father Albert was no doubt due to the preaching of English which the other churches of the charge strongly objected to in their love for the German patois. He was the first pastor to introduce the English language in the service, no doubt feeling its necessity. Because of this also at his resignation, St. John's church disconnected itself from Turbutville and united with the

new church at Watsontown in the pastorate of Rev. (Dr.) T. Billheimer, 1867-68. The pastors from that date to the present time were the same as those at Watsontown.

The church was improved in the pastorate of Rev. H. D. Shimer. New pews, a new chandelier, were placed in the building and the walls and ceiling beautifully frescoed at a cost of several hundreds of dollars. During the pastorate of the present pastor, Rev. M. Stanley Kemp, Litt. D., a new organ was purchased for the church, a new railing placed around the choir, a new hymn board put in position, and a set of fine art glass windows placed in the walls— all the work of the Lutheran Ladies' Aid Society. The grounds also have been graded and fifty dollars worth of new Lutheran hymnals placed in the church by Miss Mabel Nichols' Sunday School class. From its organization a small Reformed congregation has worshipped in the building. The present Lutheran membership is nearly one hundred and fifty.

The Centennial of the church was celebrated from June 14 to June 18, 1916, when nearly one thousand people attended. Many of the former pastors assisted in the services.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, WATSONTOWN, PA.

REV. M. S. KEMP, LITT. D.

Previous to 1866 the Lutherans of Watsontown were connected with the St. John's Lutheran Church of Delaware Run and the McEwensville and Turbutville Lutheran Churches. Services had however been held in the old Academy building for some years previous by Rev. John Jacob Albert of Turbutville and Rev. George Parsons of Milton. With the growth of the town the sentiment for a church increased. The organization was affected in the early spring of 1866 when the following became charter members:

Zacharias Yeagle
Matilda Yeagle
Eliza Peterman
Daniel Marsh

Rachel Kramer
F. S. Witman
Rebecca Witman
Abby Arnild

Eliza Marsh	Rosanna Ott
A. T. Goodman	Emeline Krack (St. John's)
Joshua Cole	A. B. Latshaw
David Kline (St. John's)	Rebecca Latshaw
Peter Heims	H. K. Witman
Gabriel Kline (St. John's)	Noah Ware
Jonathan Kramer	Silas Rumbach (St. John's)
Mary Kramer	J. W. Rumbach (St. John's)
Samuel Witman	Samuel Miller (St. John's)
Hannah Witman	Emeline Miller (St. John's)
Joseph Witman	Barbara Miller (St. John's)
Frederica Witman	Amanda Miller (St. John's)
Fred Heilman (Muncy Brick Ch.)	Christian Gosh (St. John's)
Christiana Heilman (Mcy Brick Ch.)	Mary Gosh (St. John's)
Margaret Moll (St. John's)	J. D. Gosh (St. John's)
Sarah Wagner (St. John's)	Ellen Harley (St. John's)
Caroline Aman	Philip Wintersteen
Mary A. Kline (St. John's)	Christiana Wintersteen
Daniel Kramer	Kate Bower.

The first church council was composed of Christian Gosh, Silas Rombach, Abram Goodman, Samuel Miller, Samuel Witman and A. B. Latshaw.

In February a committee had been appointed consisting of W. H. Follmer, Peter Schaffer, Silas Rumbach, E. Everett and Philip Wintersteen to solicit funds for a Union Church. By March 21st three thousand four hundred and sixty-seven dollars and a-half had been subscribed. Encouraged by the result two lots on the corner of Maine and Fourth streets were purchased from A. Pardee for the sum of five hundred dollars and work began upon the foundations. The building was to be a two-story brick church, fifty by thirty-six feet, and was to be the property jointly of the St. Bartholomew's Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Congregations of Watsontown. By the agreement signed July 14th, 1866, by the trustees; each congregation was to have the use of the building every alternate week from Wednesday morning to Wednesday morning. The corner-stone was laid July 15th, 1866 with appropriate services by Rev. John Jacob Albert. Building operations continued throughout the year. The dedication services were held the following spring,

May 12th, 1867. Rev. George Parsons, Milton, and Rev. Joshua Evans, Lewisburg, officiating, both were Lutherans.

The first recorded communion service was held May 26th, 1867. There was no pastor at this time and this service was



First Church, Watson town

held most probably by Rev. John Jacob Albert or Rev. George Parsons. On November 1st of this year the Rev. (Dr.) T. C. Billheimer of the Seminary at Gettysburg became the first pastor. St. Bartholomew's Church was the first church edifice in Watson town and Rev. Billheimer the first resident pastor. Rev.

J. B. Keller succeeded Rev. Billheimer in 1869 serving nearly two years and was succeeded by the Rev. P. S. Mack who served from July 1st, 1871 to July 1st, 1873. It was during this latter pastorate the first constitution was drawn up and signed. A parsonage also was secured through the joint subscriptions of St. Bartholomew's Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran Churches, which from the fall of 1867 became a part of the charge. This parsonage was a large frame building still standing on lower Ash street.

Rev. S. P. Orwig took charge Oct. 1st, 1873 and served to October 1st, 1878. By his earnest preaching he deepened the spiritual life of the congregation. He was followed by Rev. A. K. Zimmerman who served from June 1st, 1879 to November 1st, 1882. On June 1st, 1883 Rev. S. G. Shannon became pastor serving to March 1st, 1885. It was during Pastor Shannon's administration that agitation was started for a new church. The growth of the church demanded services every Sabbath. This sentiment grew until it found expression a few years later in the purchase of the union church by the Lutherans in the pastorate of Rev. F. W. Staley (May 1st, 1885-May 1st, 1890). The purchase was made May 1st, 1886 when the property, was bought, the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars being paid to the Reformed for their interests. At the same time plans were made for the erection of a new church on the site of the old building. G. W. Rombach, J. H. Harly, S. M. Miller, Chas. Heilman, Isaac Stryker and J. G. Bower were appointed a building committee. The corner-stone was laid July 25th, 1886 and the building dedicated March 6th of the following year. The cost of building and grounds was \$23,000. Provision was made on the day of dedication for the liquidation of all indebtedness but due to financial depression of the times about fifteen hundred dollars was not paid, thus leaving a debt of that amount.

In the year 1891 the present parsonage was built in the pastorate of Rev. M. H. Fishburn (Aug. 1st, 1890-Oct. 15th, 1894). The approximate cost was five thousand dollars. Of this amount thirty-two hundred dollars was raised by the congregation, leaving an indebtedness on the parsonage of \$1,800, making a total indebtedness on church and parsonage of thirty-three hundred dollars. This was increased to thirty-seven hundred by a note given to the St. John's Church for their share in the old parsonage.

Deaconesses appointed under the administration of Rev. Fishburn raised about one thousand dollars of this amount. Another one thousand dollars was raised by assessment under the administration of Rev. A. O. Mullen (Dec. 16th, 1894-July 1st, 1903), leaving a debt of seventeen hundred dollars.

The Rev. John S. English became pastor Feb. 6th, 1904 and served to March, 1905. During his pastorate a pipe organ was placed in the gallery of the church at a cost of three thousand dollars.

The Rev. H. D. Shimer became pastor Aug. 1st, 1905 and served to April 30th, 1912. During his pastorate the original debt of seventeen hundred dollars was liquidated, the parsonage equipped with electric light and a steam heating plant, the latter costing four hundred dollars. In 1911 a steam plant at the cost of one thousand dollars was placed in the church.

The present pastor, Rev. M. Stanley Kemp, Litt. D., became pastor December 1st, 1912. During the pastorate the church was completely renovated inside, the walls frescoed, the wood-work refinished, the windows repaired and both Sunday School and church rooms recarpeted, at a cost of twenty-three hundred dollars. The Church auditorium and Sunday School rooms were furnished with new electroliers in place of the old lighting system. This latter work cost two hundred dollars and was the work of the Y. P. S. C. E. Fifty dollars worth of new hymnals was also furnished the congregation by the Come and See Bible Class. The Brotherhood Bible Class furnished a new patent twenty-one dollar Bulletin Board and with the aid of other Sunday School classes have beautified the exterior of the church with beds of flowers.

The present church is known by the name of The First Lutheran Church. The change in name from St. Bartholomew's to the present title was made in 1886 when the present building was erected and a charter obtained for the congregation. During the last fifty years she has had an eventful history. She entertained the Susquehanna Synod in 1887, 1897 and 1910. The first Christian Endeavor Society organized in the state is the Y. P. S. C. E. of this church, organized by the Rev. Shannon in the early part of his pastorate. Her first pastor, Rev. Dr. T. C. Billheimer, served for many years as Professor of Hebrew at the Seminary

at Gettysburg. The Rev. A. O. Mullen and the present pastor were representatives of the Synod at the General Synod, the former serving for some years as financial secretary of the General Synod. In her history she has sent out two ministerial sons, the Rev. W. Mottern, of Riverside, Cal., and the Rev. Wm. Redcay, of Hanover, Pa.

The church membership is nearing the five hundred mark and the Sabbath School with its six organized adult Bible Classes and many intermediate classes has grown so that an addition to the Sunday School rooms is imperative. By the grace of God and a loyal membership there stretches before her a very hopeful future.

ST. MATTHEW'S, CATAWISSA.

REV. U. MYERS, D. D., PASTOR.

Services, by Lutherans, were held in or near Catawissa (Hughesburg) as early as 1790. On May 1, 1796, a congregation of thirteen was organized. From 1802 to 1804 services were held in a barn near a mill on the Catawissa Creek—the second from its mouth. A church was built in 1804, in union with the Reformed. It was called St. Johns. It occupied the site of the present Soldiers' Monument.

The pastors of St. John's, until the organization of St. Matthew's were: Rev. C. Stock, Frederick Plitt, Peter Hall, Peter Kessler, Jeremiah Shindel, 1830-1837 and M. J. Eyer from 1837.

On June 23, 1845, at a meeting at which Revs. W. J. Eyer and Charles Witmer (who was assisting Rev. Eyer in his extensive parish) were active, it was resolved that we form an English Congregation." On motion of Rev. Eyer, Stephen Baldy, Joseph Brobst, Jacob Knight, John Hartman and Peter Bodine were appointed a committee to prepare a constitution. On July 13, 1845 this committee presented rules and regulations for the government of the English Evangelical Lutheran St. Matthew's congregation of Catawissa." This report was adopted.

The congregation was chartered Nov. 18, 1850. The church

building was dedicated in 1851, Rev. P. Willard, of Danville, preaching the sermon.

Mr. Eyer preached in English to the St. Matthew's congregation from its organization in 1845 to 1851, in the mother church,



St. Matthew's Church, Catawissa

St. John's, where he also preached in German to the St. John's congregation. From 1851 to 1862 he preached in English in St. Matthew's church and in German in St. John's. In 1862 Rev. Eyer relinquished St. Matthew's. Rev. J. F. Wampole

served St. Matthew's in connection with other places and with some assistants, e. g., S. W. Owen from 1862 to 1864.

Rev. J. R. Dimm, pastor at Bloomsburg, served from 1864 to 1866. During this pastorate the congregation left the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and joined the Synod of East Pennsylvania. When the Susquehanna Conference of this Synod, in 1867, became the Susquehanna Synod, St. Matthew's became, and has remained, a member of this Synod.

Rev. Daniel Beckner served as pastor from 1867 to 1870. The Vought Church was associated with St. Matthew's as a charge until 1877.

Rev. S. Curtis was pastor from 1870 to 1872. Near the close of this pastorate special services followed by a large accession were held at which Rev. R. H. Fletcher was the preacher. Following this, a large class was confirmed by the pastor.

During the summer of 1872 the pulpit was supplied by C. S. Coates, a student of Missionary Institute.

Following this, Rev. R. F. Kingsley, a licentiate of the East Pennsylvania Synod, served for a year or more. During this period the situation was quite peculiar in several ways. After Mr. Kingsley's retirement the charge was vacant until Rev. E. H. Leisenring, a student of Missionary Institute, served it as a supply and then as pastor from 1875 to 1878.

Rev. F. P. Manhart, then a school principal in Bloomsburg, was "pastoral supply" for six months following.

Rev. J. F. Diener was pastor from 1879 to 1882. During this pastorate a lot was bought and the parsonage still used was erected upon it.

Rev. D. M. Henkel, D. D., a member of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, a resident of Catawissa, and a son-in-law of Rev. W. J. Eyer, the founder of the congregation, supplied for five months.

On May 15, 1883, the pastorate of Rev. U. Myers, which still continues, began. Throughout the whole of this long pastorate the congregation has uniformly maintained a vigorous life. The contributions for benevolence and for the needs of the home work have been large and generous. During the year 1884 the church was remodelled and repaired at a cost of \$6,226. The

committee in charge of these improvements were: S. D. Rinard, P. R. Baldy, G. Manhart, T. M. Berninger and G. M. Kreigh.

On Dec. 14, 1884 the church was re-dedicated, the following ministers having part in the services: Revs. E. A. Sharretts, M. L. Shindel, F. P. Manhart, J. V. Bodine, E. H. Leisenring and J. H. Neiman, together with the pastor. A storm of September 30, 1896, damaged the church considerably. The repairs and various improvements were promptly made and the church was re-dedicated on Dec. 20, 1896.

Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D. and R. G. Bannen, D. D., preached at the morning and evening services, respectively.

A large gothic altar was placed in the church in the year 1900.

A pipe organ was secured in 1903, the 20th anniversary of Dr. Myer's pastorate.

In 1908 the 25th anniversary of Dr. Myer's pastorate was fittingly observed.

On March 29, 1914 St. Matthew's was again re-dedicated. Extensive enlargement and improvement had been made at a cost of about \$5,500. On this occasion Rev. F. P. Manhart, the president of the Synod and Rev. D. E. Rupley, preached. The pastor, as at previous re-dedications, very successfully managed the finances.

St. Matthew's is maintaining its vigor.

Note—The above was compiled in part from a history of St. Matthew's, by Rev. D. M. Henkel, D. D. F. P. M.

ORIOLE CHARGE, NIPPENOSE VALLEY.

REV. ROY E. MEYER, PASTOR.

The first Lutheran pastor in the Nippenose Valley was Rev. Gustavus Schultze. He was of German birth and education. His preaching was all in the German language. In his earlier years he is said to have served as a soldier under Napoleon Bonaparte. For forty years he was the only Lutheran minister in the great valley of the West Branch River. Rev. Gustavus Schultze was born June 30, 1779. He came into this country

in 1816 and died at Ball's Mills Pa., January 9, 1874, aged 94 years, 6 month, 9 days.

The second regular Lutheran pastor was the Rev. F. A. Barnitz. He preached the English language. Someone has said,



Limestone or St. James' Church, near Oriole

"There are now but few living who remember Mr. Barnitz. The good which he has done remains as an abiding monument to his memory."

Rev. Barnitz was followed in the summer of 1847 by Rev. Thomas M. Flint. His pastorate was a very short one, lasting only a few months. He is said to have been a good and earnest preacher. He died in Baltimore soon after he left here.

The next to be called to this charge was the Rev. J. Evans. After Evans the following were called:

Rev. Samuel Yingling served two years.

Rev. J. T. Fahs.

Rev. P. Bergstresser, D. D.

Rev. E. Studebaker began work 1858.

Rev. W. H. Heisler became pastor Jan. 1, 1862 and labored there until September 1, 1866, four years and eight months.



St. Peter's Church, Collumsville

Rev. H. B. Winton became pastor Dec., 1866. Under Bro. Winton's ministry the new church edifice was completed in the spring and dedicated some time in May, 1867. (Present Limestone Church). He resigned in February, 1868. He was the last one to serve the valley churches in connection with the Jersey Shore charge. After this the two churches of the valley formed a charge by themselves.

Rev. D. Beckner next became pastor. He served ten months and then resigned.

Rev. G. S. Battersby was pastor from 1872 to 1875.

Rev. J. A. Flickinger, April 1, 1878 and served three years and three months.

Rev. R. H. Fletcher, supply.

Rev. J. G. Griffith 1882-1882.

Rev. T. J. Frederick 1884-1888.

Rev. I. H. McGann 1888-1892.

Rev. L. N. Fleck 1892-1894.

Rev. W. A. Trostle 1899-1907.

Rev. T. B. Uber 1909-1911.

Rev. F. H. Schrader 1911-1913.

Roy J. Meyer was called Dec. 25th, 1916. He is supplying until June when after his graduation at Susquehanna University he will move to the valley.

Corner-stone of the Limestone Church was laid Sept. 23, 1866.

Corner-stone of the St. Peter's Church was laid during the year 1852.

On Nov. 16, 1884 the Limestone Church, after being extensively repaired, was re-dedicated by the pastor, Rev. T. J. Frederick. Rev. J. A. Flickinger preached the sermon.

Student Karl Irvin, of Susquehanna, supplied the charge during 1914. On Oct. 11, 1914 St. Peter's Collomsville, after extensive repairs and improvements, was re-dedicated by Rev. Frank P. Manhart, President of the Synod. Student A. W. Smith, of Susquehanna, supplied the charge during the summer of 1916.

TURBOTVILLE CHARGE

REV. G. B. ELY.

St. James Lutheran Congregation has its beginning as a Union Church (Lutheran and Reformed), although no Reformed congregation existed until 1837. The church was built in 1819 and was known as the St. Jacobs Union Church.

The church was supplied by Milton pastors at first. McEwensville, Turbotville, Washingtonville, the River Church, Paradise,

White Deer Valley, Black Hole Valley and Follmers were points of preaching and oftentimes the same pastors served both the Lutheran and Reformed congregations, the feeling of unanimity between the congregation being very strong in those days.

The period from 1819 to 1854 had the following pastors: Rev. Ferd Engle 1815-17, Rev. Jacob Repass 1826, Rev. Fred. Waage



Messiah Church, McEwensville

1828, Rev. Jared Sheetz 1829, Rev. William German 1830, Rev. C. P. Miller 1831, Rev. Jared Sheets 1835, Rev. Chas. F. Stoever Dec. 1836 to Sept. 1, 1845, Rev. S. R. Boyer 1845 to 1859.

Under the pastorate of Rev. S. R. Boyer St. James Lutheran Congregation became a separate church.

The Old Union church building was no longer satisfactory so it was decided, by a majority of the congregation, to again build a union church, but Rev. S. R. Boyer and a large number of Lutheran members preferred a Lutheran Church.

The Union church was however built in 1855 and late in the fall, before it was quite completel, it caught fire mysteriously one night and both the New Union church and the Old Log Union church, which stood close below, were burnt to the ground.

Fearing that another Union church would meet the same fate it was decided to build three churches.

Rev. S. R. Boyer, with a large number of Lutherans, built Zion Lutheran church on Paradise street. The Reformed congregation built their church a little above the place where the New Union church stood; and the remaining Lutherans built St. James Lutheran church on the foundation of the New Union church, which was burnt, and St. James is still known by the name of "The Union Church," and rightly so from it's union spirit.

These churches were all built in 1856 and St. James Lutheran church was dedicated April 30th, 1857, Rev. John T. Williams being the first pastor.

The pastors of St. James congregation from 1857 to 1917 are as follows:

Rev. John T. Williams 1857 to 1859,
Rev. A. Babb, 1860 to 1863,
Rev. A. R. Horn 1863 to 1865,
Rev. E. J. Wolf 1866 to 1868,
Rev. G. Sill 1869 to 1870
Rev. U. Myers, 1871 to 1879.
Rev. W. C. McCool 1880 to 1883,
Rev. M. L. Schmucker 1885 to 1889,
Rev. I. B. Christ, 1890 to 1895,
Rev. Geo. W. Fortney 1895 to 1900,
Rev. John H. C. Manifold 1901 to 1913,
Rev. George B. Ely 1914 to 19—.

The charge when Rev. J. T. Williams became pastor was composed of Turbotville, McEwensville, Follmers and Paradise The parsonage being at McEwensville.

A parsonage was built at Turbotville and Rev. A. Babb lived first where the present parsonage now is.

In 1870 while Rev. G. Sill was pastor the congregation purchased a silver plated communion set.

During Rev. U. Myers pastorate the charge was divided, Follmers and Paradise withdrawing. A half interest in the parsonage was bought from the Follmers and Paradise congregations, thus making the Turbotville pastorate as at present, Turbotville and McEwensville.

The Turbotville charge installed a large pipe organ and a reed organ, a bookcase was also bought.

During the thirteen years that Rev. J. H. C. Manifold labored here the congregation rebuilt the parsonage in 1902, at a cost of over \$1,500. The church was rebuilt in 1905 at a cost of \$2,-686. The barn was rebuilt in 1909 at a cost of \$564.

In the two years that Rev. Geo. B. Ely has served electric



St. James' Church, Turbotville

lights were installed in the parsonage, the Sunday School bought a piano, costing \$325, and the church put a new fence around the grave yard, costing over \$100. The Duplex Envelope system was introduced and ninety-six members were added to the congregation.

McEwensville Church.

The Messiah Lutheran Congregation in McEwensville of the Turbotville pastorate had its beginning in 1842, as a union church with the Reformed. The pastors of this church and the history of the charge are the same as at Turbotville.

In 1873, during the pastorate of Rev. U. Myers, Messiah

Lutheran Church paid the Reformed Congregation \$2,200 for half interest in the church and thus became a separate congregation. A reed organ and bookcase were also purchased during this time.

In 1882 while Rev. W. C. McCool was pastor the church was rebuilt.

In 1914 and 1915, while Rev. Geo. B. Ely was pastor, the church was repainted, heaters put into the basement, new carpet put in, an independent electric light plant installed at a total cost of almost \$1,500.

Twenty-six new members were added to the congregation.

HISTORY OF GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, WILKES-BARRE, PA.

REV. W. R. FITZGERALD.

Grace English Lutheran Church of Wilkes-Barre, Penna., was organized on March 18, 1894, with thirty-four charter members. Services were first conducted in the Y. M. C. A. lecture room during the last quarter of the previous year by visiting clergymen from the Susquehanna Synod until the arrival of the Rev. Carl Zinnsmeister, of New Kensington, Pa., who preached the first sermon on January 14, 1894. He entered the field as the regular pastor on February 4, 1894. On February 18, 1894, he organized a Sunday school with sixteen members. The Ladies' Aid Society was organized February 22, 1894, with twelve members. The Luther League was organized February 25, 1895. After worshiping in the Y. M. C. A. for some time the people eagerly looked forward to having their own church home. A committee to secure a lot and the pastor were favorably impressed with a lot, corner South Main and Ross streets, on which were four stores. This lot was purchased November 21, 1895. Ground was broken for a chapel on the rear of the lot October 15, 1896. The corner-stone was laid November 8, 1896. The pastor being assisted by the Revs. J. H. Weber, D. D., and A. N. Warner. On June 29, 1897, the church was dedicated to Almighty God. Revs. A. S. Hartman, S. B. Barnitz and John Wagner assisted

at these services. The congregation entered into the chapel on April 25, 1897, after worshiping for three years and three months in the Y. M. C. A. Rev. Zinnsmeister continued to serve the congregation faithfully until April 30, 1898.

Rev. Walter Miller became pastor July 1, 1898. During his pastorate many of those who had left the church were reclaimed and the indebtedness paid. He served the Mission until June 30, 1904.

Rev. M. H. Fischer began to supply the Mission as a Senior in the Seminary at Susquehanna University, at the request of Dr. Hartman, of the Home Mission Board, October 23, 1904. He entered the field as a regular pastor May 1, 1905. He organized the following societies to assist in the work: Prayer Meeting and Bible Study in May, 1905; Teachers' Meeting in June, 1905; Home Department, October 22, 1905; Brotherhood of Grace, November 14, 1905. Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, November 30, 1905; Messenger Service, March 25, 1906.

During the summer of 1907 the chapel was repaired at a cost of \$415, all of which was paid.

The pastoral work of Rev. Fischer closed May 31, 1909.

Rev. Joseph D. Krout took charge as regular pastor October 31, 1909.

On March 27, 1910, a \$500 mortgage and note were publicly burned. This was the first mortgage indebtedness paid since the organization of the congregation.

On March 28, 1910, it was unanimously decided to sell the Main and Ross Street property. The property was sold for \$35,000, and a lot was purchased at 500 South Franklin street, at the cost of \$9,500. A building committee was appointed and the plans as submitted by Thomas Podmore, architect, were adopted and the general contract was awarded to Herman Mailander for \$22,000. The ground for the new church was broken July 28, 1910. The old church was vacated April 30, 1911, and the first services were held in the Sunday school room of the new church May 7, 1911. On May 28, 1911, the church was dedicated to the worship of Almighty God. Rev. A. S. Hartman, D. D., secretary of the Home Mission Board, preached the sermon and the Rev. C. R. Botsford, of Berwick, made an address.

The entire cost of the new church property was \$38,681.22. A mortgage of \$12,300 was placed upon the church.

Rev. Krout closed his labors July 1, 1913.

Rev. W. R. Fitzgerald, the present pastor, took charge May 1, 1914. During his pastorate the floating indebtedness has been paid. Fifty new members were added to the church. Over four hundred dollars has been raised to make a payment on the indebtedness. At a special congregational meeting held June 28, 1916, it was decided that the congregation assume half the indebtedness and make an earnest effort to pay at least this amount by the quadri-centennial celebration in 1917. The people are now at work upon this special fund. Should this be done the work of Grace Mission will become one of the strong churches of the Susquehanna Synod.

ST. MATTHEW'S, SHAMOKIN DAM.

REV. FRANK P. MANHART.

There were occasional services, and possibly services for considerable periods at Shamokin Dam by pastors of Lutheran churches in the vicinity as early as 1835. J. P. Shindel, Jr., preached in 1835.

However, the regular life of St. Matthew's dates from 1872, when Rev. M. L. Shindel, pastor of Trinity, Selinsgrove, organized the congregation with the constitution it still has. He supplied the congregation until he became pastor at Danville in 1874.

Rev. E. B. Killinger supplied the congregation while a student of Missionary Institute and while pastor at Northumberland. Rev. John B. Focht, then principal of the classical department of Missionary Institute, served the congregation during 1881 and 1882.

Rev. P. Born, D. D., superintendent of Missionary Institute, served as pastor from 1882 to 1884.

Rev. J. B. Dimm, D. D., then principal of the Classical De-

partment of Missionary Institute, and afterward a professor and president of Susquehanna University, was pastor from 1884 to 1915. During these thirty-one years the congregation had a steady and substantial growth, reporting at the end of the period 100 communicant and 140 confirmed members.

Until the erection the brick church still occupied, the services were usually held in the school house. The church is



St. Matthew's Church, Shamokin Dam

Gothic in architecture and is 34x48 feet in size, the vestibule being additional. Rev. Frank P. Manhart, as president of the Synod, cared for the congregation from the time of Dr. Dimm's retirement until April, 1916, when he became the pastor and assumed the care of the congregation as such.

At the time of this writing very considerable improvements to the property are being arranged for; probably the erection of a church edifice 40x60, connecting with the present structure.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH, SHAMOKIN, PA.

By REV. W. E. FISCHER, D. D.

The records of Trinity Lutheran church show that the Rev. Peter Willard, familiarly known as "Father Willard," preached to the Lutherans at Shamokin and the immediate vicinity in 1851.



Trinity Church, Shamokin

His immediate successor was the Rev. C. J. Ehrhart, who later on was principal of the Preparatory Department of Pennsylvania college, Gettysburg, Pa. It was during his pastorate, in the year 1854, that an organization was effected, services being held in a little old log church located where now the fine structure of our Presbyterian Lutheran church stands. For three years the

Rev. Ehrhart served stately the small flock of Lutherans of this city.

His successor was the Rev. J. F. Wampole, whose name is a household word in this community and the region round about, and who ministered to the church until the year 1865, when the Rev. J. B. Keller was called as pastor. It was during his term of service that the present church was erected. He was a faithful servant of God, and his memory lingers fragrantly in the minds of some who yet live and serve.

In the year 1870, the Rev. J. R. Williams became the pastor of this flock, and he continued to serve it for three years with eminent satisfaction.

He was succeeded by the Rev. S. Domer, whose warm personality and fruitful ministry attached him strongly to the people and community at large. Dr. Domer was pastor at Shamokin for only one year and six months. His resignation was accepted with great regret.

The Rev. H. C. Haithcox, D. D., took charge in 1875, and his work was unrelenting for the welfare of his flock. He was followed by the Rev. P. S. Hooper in the year 1878, who served acceptably until the year 1881, when the Rev. J. A. Flickinger succeeded him. It was during this administration that the church building was enlarged to its present proportions. Brother Flickinger was an earnest, fearless preacher. His resignation came as a surprise to the congregation, for he was highly esteemed for his work's sake.

In 1885 the Rev. L. D. Wells took charge. He served the church until May 5, 1889. His work was constructive. In appreciation, a beautiful memorial window, bearing his name, adorns the auditorium.

The Rev. Dr. C. T. Steck followed Mr. Wells, and he served the church at Shamokin until 1893. Dr. Steck's pulpit ministrations were at once recognized as being of a very high order, and his hearers delighted to listen to his eloquent presentation of the truth. Dr. Steck suddenly died in Shamokin and his body lies in the beautiful cemetery of this city.

The earliest history of Trinity shows that services were also held in the Odd Fellows' hall on Sunbury street, the present location of the Roaring Creek Water Company. The congrega-

tion grew steadily in numbers and influence. In the early history of this church, services were held in both the German and English language. Later on the German was discontinued, in consequence of which the congregation lost in membership, those still desiring German preaching uniting with Grace Lutheran of the General Council, and the Reformed, where services are still held in both languages. Despite these losses, Trinity grew in numbers until to-day she reports to Synod 700 communicants, 840 confirmed and 1041 baptized members.

The present pastor, the Rev. W. E. Fischer, D. D., took charge in September, 1893.

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
MOUNT CARMEL, PA.

REV. A. L. DILLENBECK

The following persons having made a profession of faith according to the doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran church as held by the General Synod, formed themselves on the 18th of May, 1855, into a congregation:

* Peter Stroh, John Dreher, Frederick Fahrion, George Hornberger, Catharine Klinger, Sarah Dreher, Catharine Stroh, Mary Ann Fahrion, Christian Knapp, Lewis Knapp, Jonathan Klinger, George Long, Elizabeth Klinger, Magdalena Fagley and Maria Steele.

This formation was brought about by the Rev. C. J. Ehrhart, who served them as pastor until April 27, 1856. The first communion was held May 20, 1855.

There is no recorded history between April 27, 1856, and June 18, 1858.

In the spring of 1858, Rev. J. F. Wampole became the pastor of a joint church composed of 15 Lutherans, 5 German Reformeds, and 2 Methodists. Rev. W. L. Heisler succeeded Rev. Wampole beginning his labors Oct. 1, 1859, and resigning Jan. 1, 1862. During his pastorate 27 persons were added to the church. In February of the same year, Rev. F. A. Barnitz, pas-



Grace Church, Mt. Carmel

tor of St. James' Lutheran church of Ashland, began serving the union congregation.

Up to this time services had been held in a frame school house on the southeast corner of Second and Grape streets. The corner-stone of the new building, on a lot between First Avenue and Cherry street was laid October 18, 1863. There are no records showing the cost of the building, which was probably about \$1,700.00, nor of the date of dedication which was some time in the spring of 1867.

New energy and zeal apparently came with the new building. In 1867, Rev. J. R. Sikes became pastor. A charter of incorporation was granted by Judge A. Jordan, Jan. 26, 1870.

Rev. J. A. Adams irregularly supplied the pulpit from Dec. 1, 1867, to April 19, 1868. Under the direction of the newly formed Susquehanna Synod, the church was united with the Shamokin Valley church into one charge and from this new church Rev. Adams received and accepted a call, entering upon the field June 1, 1868. He served the field for eight years and six months, resigning Dec. 1, 1876. During his pastorate there were 82 accessions, and many repairs and additions made to the church building. The re-dedication services were held on Oct. 18, 1874.

The parish was without a pastor until June 3, 1877, when Rev. O. D. S. Marclay of St. James', Ashland, became pastor, officiating only occasionally for about one year. The church now felt able to support a resident pastor and a call was extended to Rev. C. W. Sechrist at a salary of \$300.00 per year. He entered upon his duties Feb. 1, 1879. A parsonage lot was purchased for \$75.00, and on it was built a house costing (including lot) \$1,268.51. A debt of only \$135.65 remained for a brief space of time. During this pastorate the grounds about the church and parsonage were beautified and the interior of the church painted and papered. 65 children were baptized, 34 received into the church by letter, and 42 confirmed; a net gain in membership (so the old record runneth) of about 40. Rev. Sechrist resigned Feb. 1, 1881, and after a vacancy of about eight months was succeeded by Rev. M. V. Shadow.

Rev. J. C. Schindel began his pastorate December 7, 1884, and continued until 1891. During his pastorate the church made great advancement. Plans for a new church building were made

in 1889. For several years the work could not, however, be undertaken. During this pastorate a Mission was organized at Locust Gap, which has since been abandoned. Three Slavic Lutheran churches were organized by this brother—one in Mount Carmel, one in Freeland, and one in Nanticoke. Various societies were organized within the church to help with the local



Grace English Church, Wilkes-Barre

work, finances were systematized, and the cause of benevolence advanced.

Rev. J. W. Henderson was the next pastor. The work of the church was actively pushed during these two years, notwithstanding many adverse circumstances and conditions. The present treasurer of the church, H. B. Henderson, is a son of this former pastor.

In 1893, Rev. D. R. Becker accepted a call to this field and for 7 years labored zealously for the cause of Christ and the advancement of His kingdom. It was during this period that the present church edifice was erected. The structure is of brick and cost as far as it can be ascertained about \$10,000.00. Much of the labor was performed by the men of the church and the structure erected in 1894 could not be built to-day for less than

\$20,000.00. Resigning he was succeeded by Rev. A. J. Rudisill, who also served the church for 7 years. Wideawake earnest efforts were made and progress witnessed during this efficient pastorate. It was through the earnest efforts of this pastor that the indebtedness remaining on the church was removed, and the congregation was once more free from debt. After a short interim, Rev. W. A. Kump became pastor and he also administered the affairs of the church for a seven-year period. Steady growth marked the life of the church. Special attention was paid to the catechisation of the young. Repairs were made to the parsonage. The entire church was re-frescoed and new chandeliers installed.

Leaving the field in December, 1913, Rev. Kump was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. A. L. Dillenbeck who arrived upon the field April 1, 1914. With great enthusiasm the people rallied to the needs of the church. A wave of religious emotion had swept over the city and its present effect was felt at this particular time. Audiences that taxed the seating capacity of the building were customary. The Common Service was used for the first time and its use still continues. Especial activity marked the church life of the young people. An active Christian Endeavor Society, a large Men's Bible Class, a graded Primary Sunday School directed by the pastor's wife, a Choir Director for the first time in the history of the church, a Junior Choir of 45 voices, a Senior Choir of 30 voices, the faithful Ladies' Aid Society, the newly-organized Merry Workers' Society, a growing Sunday School, and a faithful Church Council all evidenced increased zeal and loyalty to the church.

The enlargement of the Church auditorium by making the old Sunday School room a part of it, the erection of a new building on the rear of the lot containing a modern Sunday School room on the second floor, and a large and commodious Gymnasium or Social room, together with a kitchen, ladies' parlor, locker room, toilets and a shower bath and boiler room on the first floor, took place in the year 1915-16. A new Moller Pipe Organ costing \$1,800.00 was also installed. The entire improvements cost about \$16,000.00. Of this amount \$9,000.00 was secured before the building was built and the balance was secured in cash and pledges on the day of dedication, Dec. 19, 1915. During the

year of building the congregation spent a grand total of nearly \$11,000.00 for all objects. A debt of about \$9,000.00 remains.

The church, with its organ, its Lutheran arrangement and appointments, its facilities for all the varied work of church life in a modern city, is now ready to do its most efficient work.

During 1914-16 over 250 souls were added to the church. Losses however were heavy, many moving from the city because of anticipated strikes and for other reasons, many by death, and losses through the organization of the Kulpmount Church, made the net gain in communicant membership about 100. The communicant membership now is about 340. (Rev. Dillenbeck resigned March, 1917.)

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CLINTON TOWNSHIP OR BLACK HOLE VALLEY

BY REV. E. E. DIETRICH.

Locally known as "The Brick Church." There is much confusion in the early records and in some places it is impossible to reconcile the varied statements. After having gone over them carefully we believe that the following history is substantially correct. Unfortunately, no records of the church exist of an earlier date than 1896 for reasons which we shall give hereafter. As early as 1816 or 1817 an organization was effected among the Lutherans of this valley, who up to this time worshipped in the old Emanuels Church of Muncy Valley. This Emanuels Church seems to have been the mother church in this part of the state. Mr. J. F. Meginnis in his history of Lycoming County, Page 586 says: "The Lutheran and Reformed Societies jointly built a church in 1817 where the present Lutheran Church now stands. This old house was destroyed by fire in 1848 and on its site the present beautiful structure was built. The first pastor was Rev. Eyler, the Reformed pastor was Rev. Engle. Yet Rev. Frederick Engle's name appears on the records of said Emanuels Church as the Lutheran pastor from 1813 to 1823 hence it would appear that he was the Lutheran pastor and not the Reformed pastor. The deed for the land was made by Mr. Philip Rance and his wife Elizabeth Rance to Mr. John Heilman

and Jacob Metskar, trustees for the German Lutheran and Presbyterian congregations, and is dated Feb. 17, 1818. Consideration \$1.00. The date cut on the corner stone is 1818. The amount of land conveyed was one half acre. This deed is recorded in Deed Book No. 107, page 43 by Mr. George W. Gilmore. This land was conveyed by Mr. John Penn and Mr.



St. John's Church, Clinton Township, Lycoming County

Thomas Penn, proprietors of the estate of Mr. Wiliam Penn, to Mr. Michael Diffenderfer, Apr. 29, 1773. Deed of conveyance entered in roll office of the State of Pennsylvania Patent Book A, Vol. 13, page 463. He conveyed it to his wife by his will Aug 27, 1788. At her death Mr. Mathias Young inherited it June 1, 1811. He sold it Nov. 14, 1811 to Mr. Wiliam Miller, from whom Mr. Rance obtained it. As St. John's Church was served in connection with the aforementioned Emanuels Church we will take their records and find the following pastors served it. Rev. Frederick Engle from the time of its organization to 1823. Rev. Joseph Repass 1823-1829. Rev. William Garman 1829-1832. Rev. C. P. Miller 1832-1837. Rev. C. F. Staver Apr. 9, 1837-

1839. Rev. J. T. Williams Rev. George Parson Dec. 8, 1845. Rev. Parson seems to have been the patriarch of Lutheranism in these parts and served a large and laborious field. The old Stone church of White Deer Valley was rebuilt in 1845 and became a Lutheran church. The White, sometimes known as the Frame Church, near Elimsport was built in 1847. About this time these two churches were united to make a new charge and St. John's was separated from Emanuels and joined with them thus forming the Clinton Charge. Rev. Parson ceased to serve St. John's although he continued to serve Emanuels until 1865. The next pastor was Rev. Henry Ziegler, D. D. 1850-1853. Rev. Philip Sheeder 1853-1856. Rev. D. S. Truckenmiller 1859-1861. Rev. A. W. Lentz 1863-July 4, 1874. Rev. J. A. Flickinger June 18, 1875-Dec. 30, 1877. At this time St. John's was separated from the Clinton Charge and united with Muncy. Rev. E. H. Leisenring Sept. 17, 1878-Oct. 28, 1885. Rev. M. S. Cressman Feb. 6, 1886-Feb 1, 1888. Rev. J. A. Koser Aug. 1, 1888-1895. Rev. W. F. Steck Dec. 1, 1895. Rev. Steck is still pastor at Muncy. But in Jan. 17, 1909 St. John's was separated from Muncy and became a separate charge of which Rev. S. A. Garnes was the pastor from Apr. 1, 1910 to Apr. 30, 1915. On Aug. 15, 1916 Rev. E. E. Dietterich became pastor and still serves it. The first church was a log structure and was erected in the winter of 1817 and 1818 it was a substantial structure built in the style of those times. This building was destroyed by fire in 1848 and all the records with it. On the same plot but a little removed from the old site a handsome new brick structure was erected. This church served the congregation well until the last Sunday in Jan., 1896 when this building was burned and again all the records were burned with it. Thus this congregation has had the misfortune to be two times burned out of a church home. But they were substantial people as Lutheran people usually are and nothing daunted they immediately built larger and better on the same spot. The present beautiful structure is a monument to their devotion and sacrifice for the cause they love. It was built at an expense of about \$5,000.00 and was dedicated free of debt. St. John's is now a Lutheran church, the Reformed, sometimes called German Presbyterians, having long since surrendered all claim to it. Mr. Peter Stryker came to this valley in 1784. He died in 1789 and was the first interment made

in what is now the Lutheran cemetery here. In 1864 or thereabout another plot of ground was secured adjoining the church on which was erected a parsonage. This parsonage is the present abode of the pastor. Thus St. John's has had a long and eventful history. It is unique in that it is a selfsustaining rural pastorate, having its own church and parsonage. May God Almighty bless it and its people.

GERMAN-ENGLISH CHURCH

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

BY W. H. DEIBLE, M. D.

Sunday, May 1, 1898, Rev. Carl Zinssmeister, pastor of Grace Church, corner South Main and Ross streets, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., allied himself with a number of Germans, composed of former members of St. Paul's, Christi Kripplein and Grace Lutheran Churches, to worship in the lecture room of the Y. M. C. A. temporary organization was effected and Church Concil elected. After two years Rev. Carl Zinssmeister went to St. Peter's Church, of Syracuse, N. Y.

Rev. Paul E. Bergeman, of Lily, Pa., became pastor March 1, 1900. A movement at once was instituted to bring the congregation upon a permanent and more secure foundation. In 1900 the congregation united with Susquehanna Synod, of the General Synod. And on January 2, 1901, a charter was granted to the congregation. On February 11, 1901, the congregation purchased the property located at No. 32 and No. 34 East Ross street, purchasing price being \$5,000. In July, 1901, the congregation began the erection of its House of Worship, which was completed November, 1901. On Sunday, December 8, 1901, the congregation held its first service and dedicated the Chapel on Sunday, February 16, 1902. Rev. A. S. Hartman, D. D., of Baltimore, Md., delivered the English sermon while pastor Rev. J. Yutzy, of Selinsgrove, officiated in German, with Rev. J. Waring, of Scranton, also assisting. At a congregational meeting, held September 25, the Chapel received its name in honor of the martyred president. Hence the McKinley Chapel commemorates the occasion, that the entire union was mourning in the

loss of the president. The dedicatory services were attended by the Conyngham Post, No. 97, G. A. R., officers of the Ninth regiment, N. G. P., Spanish American War Veterans. Commander Baab, of the Post, officiating. Slowly the congregation struggled through reverses, caused by coal miners' and machinists' strikes. Also the flood, of March 3 1902, burdened the members of the church with heavy loss. Yet the Lord prospered the work. On September 4, 1902, Rev. Paul E. Bergeman resigned, to accept a call to Ashland, Pa., the resignation to take effect on October 13, 1902. The church was now in a prosperous way, both financially and otherwise.

Rev. Frederick Kern accepted the charge and was installed on November 29, 1902. He worked among the members endeavoring to liquidate church indebtedness. Rev. Frederick Kern resigned November 30, 1904.

Rev. Herman C. Fultz was installed December 1, 1904. Another day of joy and gladness occurred on Sunday, July 15, 1906. After thoroughly renovating and adding more furniture to the interior, the church was rededicated by the pastor, Rev. H. C. Fultz. Rev. Paul E. Bergeman, of Ashland, Pa., preached the German sermon; Rev. S. J. Taylor, pastor of College Church, at Selinsgrove, Pa., delivered an appropriate sermon in English. The interior of the church received an inviting and very beautiful transformation. A vestry was added; chairs were replaced with pews; stained windows were substituted for the plain glass; floors carpeted; chancel refurnished with a new altar; altar chairs, pulpit, lectern and baptismal font; pipe organ installed. The color scheme of the chancel furniture is white and gold. All these improvements incurred a cost of \$1,600, and was paid out of funds in the treasury, as soon as the work was completed. No appeal for money was made on the day of dedication. The offering was very liberal and purely one out of gratitude. The interior of the church has an entire new appearance, and the decoration beautifully and artistically displayed. Having accepted a call to St. John's Lutheran Church, Washington, D. C., Rev. Fultz tendered his resignation to take effect September 1, 1910.

Rev. Charles J. A. Reichardt became pastor on November 15, 1910. During this pastorate extensive improvements were made to the property by which it has been largely bettered as a place of worship and of the varied activities of a present day church.

BRIEF HISTORY OF TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SELINGSGROVE, PA.

REV. CHARLES LEONARD, D. D., PASTOR.

Trinity Lutheran Church was organized April 8th, 1843, with more than 200 members who separated from the old "Pine Log" union church, Lutheran and Reformed, on account of the



Trinity Church, Selingsgrove

opposition on the part of the original church to the "new measures," or revivalistic methods introduced by the pastor, Rev. J. P. Shindel.

The corner-stone of the "New Lutheran" church was laid July 2nd, 1843, with impressive ceremonies, in the presence of a large and enthusiastic congregation. The new church building

of Greek style of architecture, "as most in harmony with the taste of the builders," was dedicated Jan. 28th, 1844. At this service the holy communion was administered to 236 persons.

The Rev. J. P. Shindel, who was in Sunbury from 1812 to 1853 and served the union church as pastor for 23 years from 1820 to 1843 was the first pastor of the new church. With him, Rev. Henry Ziegler also served the congregation as assistant pastor. Rev. Shindel who was president of the East Pennsylvania Synod from 1843 to 1846, resigned March 4th, 1846, and Rev. Ziegler closed his labors in the pastorate a short time after.

Rev. Reuben Weiser was chosen to succeed them, and assumed charge of the pastorate March 24th at a salary of \$400 dollars per year, twenty dollars additional for moving expenses, and house rent free. Rev. Weiser served the congregation for two years and seven months. During his pastorate a Parish School House was built, which later became the sexton's house. During this prosperous year of 1848 seventy dollars was the total benevolence given for all objects outside of current expenses.

Pastor Weiser was succeeded by Rev. Jesse Winecoff, Dec. 11th, 1848, who became pastor and Parish School teacher under very favorable circumstances. He received three hundred dollars from tuition fees and three hundred from the congregation and house rent free. The tuition for English branches was ten dollars, and for Greek and Latin fifteen dollars per year. Thus early in the history of the church great interest was taken in educational activities, and the Parish School was in a sense the forerunner of what later became the Missionary Institute, and now Susquehanna University. After four successful years of service Rev. Winecoff resigned Oct. 15th, 1852.

The congregation had by this time reached a period when it was thought advisable to discontinue the use of the German language and to introduce the English services. After nine months vacancy, the Rev. Daniel H. Bittle was chosen pastor with the understanding that he was to officiate in the English language only. He began his pastorate Aug. 21st, 1853. During his administration a prayer service was held in the church once a month, and the benevolence of the congregation reached \$250 per year. This was the shortest pastorate in the history of the congregation, lasting only one year and four months.

On April 20th, 1855, the Rev. Samuel Domer, who had gradu-

ated from Wittenburg College and the Seminary at Gettysburg, took charge of the congregation. During his pastorate the first steps were taken by the congregation leading to the organization of Missionary Institute. On June 9th, 1858, the following significant resolution was adopted:

“Resolved: That the use of the lecture room of the church be given to the board of managers of the Mission Institute for



Trinity Church, Selinsgrove

the use of the classical school until such time as a more suitable building can be had.” This resolution was supported with a subscription of fifteen hundred dollars in land from a member of the church council, Mr. John App; and of the twenty thousand dollars, the original valuation of the school property, at least three-fourths came from this congregation and community. The Institute was never under the control of the congregation, but the congregation furnished the first recitation rooms, gave all the lands belonging to it, and in a large measure reared the edifice that has been of such value to the church during all the intervening years.

Rev. Domer was assisted in his pulpit ministrations, during

the last three years of his pastorate by Profs. Henry Ziegler and Peter Born, since a large part of his time was taken up in teaching.

He was succeeded in the pastorate by the Rev. M. L. Shindel, March 10th, 1867, the year of the organization of the Susquehanna Synod. Rev. Shindel was a son of the first pastor and a graduate of Missionary Institute. This congregation secured a dismissal from the East Pennsylvania Synod and entered into its new synodical relations a few days after the new Synod was organized.

On April 5th, 1869, a building committee was appointed to plan for the construction of a suitable parsonage at a cost of about four thousand dollars. A substantial two and a half story brick building was erected and occupied the following year by the pastor, Rev. M. L. Shindel.

The Rev. H. B. Belmer, as the next pastor of Trinity entered upon his pastoral duties Oct. 1st, 1874. During his faithful ministry, an aggressive and successful evangelistic campaign was conducted which resulted in ninety accessions to the church in a few months. This devoted pastor was deeply bereaved by the death of his devoted wife on July 22nd, 1880. She was greatly beloved and esteemed by the entire congregation and community for her splendid qualities and her consistent christian life.

During the illness of the pastor's wife, the Rev. P. A. Heilman, who had studied at Missionary Institute and Wittenberg College, supplied the pulpit for six months.

After a successful pastorate of about seven years, Rev. Belmer resigned July 31st, 1881.

Dr. Peter Born was chosen to supply the pulpit until a regular pastor could be secured. During this interim the church building was renovoated throughout and changes made in the front entrance, at a total cost of twenty-two hundred dollars.

The Rev. Jacob Yutzy was chosen as the next pastor and entered upon his ministry in this field April 2nd, 1882. A pipe organ was installed during his ministry and other material improvements made. His pastorate was marked also by the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the church, an event that was appropriately observed, and made memorable by the complete and accurate history of the congregation prepared by pastor Yutzy.

Having accepted a professorship in Susquehanna University, Rev. Yutzzy found it impracticable further to prosecute the labors of the pastorate, and severed his pastoral relations Sept. 1st, 1895, after having served the congregation faithfully and efficiently for more than thirteen years.

He was succeeded by the Rev. John H. Barb, D. D., who became pastor of Trinity in the middle of February, 1896. During his administration a steam heating plant was installed in the parsonage, and various improvements made to the parsonage and church property. An event of interest to the church in general during this pastorate was the death of the beloved missionary to Africa, Dr. David A. Day, whose obsequies were held in Trinity church the latter part of Dec., 1897.

After a brief, but most successful pastorate, Dr. Barb severed his relations with this congregation, March 26th, 1899.

Rev. J. B. Focht, D. D., was chosen as his successor, taking charge of the field Sept. 1st, 1899. Improvements were made in the Sunday School room, modern conveniences were installed in the parsonage, the membership was materially increased, and the work of the church prospered in all respects during the administration of Dr. Focht. For a second time, however, a call from the school deprived Trinity of a pastor, and Dr. Focht relinquished the pastorate Sept. 30th, 1904, to accept the presidency of Susquehanna University.

The Rev. S. J. Taylor, D. D., was chosen successor to Dr. Focht and began his labors in this field April 1st, 1905. During this pastorate further improvements were made to the parsonage property in the erection of two-story building for general utility purposes. A new steam heating plant was installed in the parsonage. The church was frescoed, recarpeted and equipped with electric lights throughout. The Sunday School room was equipped with four class rooms by means of glass partitions.

After a successful pastorate of six years and four months, Dr. Taylor resigned the work, July 31st, 1911.

On March 1st 1912, Rev. Charles Leonard became pastor of Trinity. During this pastorate, which still continues, extensive improvements were made to the church property. Steel walls and ceiling, refrescoing, a concrete walk in front of the church, and other improvements were added to the church. The parsonage

property was also improved by a spacious porch, and repainting of buildings, and electric light fixtures installed throughout. The membership of the church has increased, and a splendid spirit of harmony and interest prevails in the work of Trinity congregation.

ESPY CHARGE.

HISTORY OF HIDLAY CHURCH.

August 19, 1796 Henry Hidlay conveyed to Andrew Creveling, George Espy, and Conrad Adams, trustees of the Briar-Creek Presbyterian Society, an acre of land upon which to erect a house



Hidlay Church, Espy

of worship. It is probable that such a house was erected the following year 1792 the Presbytery of Carlisle appointed Rev. Henry to supply the congregation. Rev's. Bryson, Dunham, Henderson, Crosby, Lewers, Patterson, Hudson, Waller, Hand, Williamson, Newell, Salmon, Melick, Dickson, Spear, and Canfield have successively been pastors of this organization. Aug. 28, 1828 a new structure was erected on the foundation of the old one.

Lutheran and Reformed congregations have also worshiped in the Briar-Creek church building. Rev. Isaac Shelhammer was first minister to the latter. At a later date Rev. William Fox organized the former. Rev. Sharrets, Dimm, and Bergstresser were its first pastors.

Rev's. Harmon, Kline, Reynolds, and Sunday have since ministered to the Lutheran people. During the ministry of Rev. O. E. Sunday, in the year 1914 the Presbyterian and Reformed organizations disbanded, leaving the church at the present time exclusively Lutheran.

HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ESPY, PA.

Rev. William Weaver, a Lutheran minister of Bloomsburg, from 1851 to 1853, preached occasionally at Espy. A number of members of the Bloomsburg church were formed into a separate organization. Among those who were prominently identified with the movement were David Whitman, John Shuman, Samuel Kressler, J. D. Werkheiser, Cyrus Barton, and Conrad Bittenbender. The last two named constituted a building committee,



St. John's Church, Espy

and in the summer of 1853 a church building was dedicated. Rev's. Philip Willard, William Weaver and the pastor were present at the ceremonies. Rev. E. A. Sharrets became pastor in 1853 and remained in charge until 1859. Rev. J. R. Dimm was his immediate successor, but resigned in 1863. Rev. D. S. Truckenmiller was pastor from 1863 to 1867, J. M. Rice from 1867 to 1872, J. M. Reimensnyder from 1872 to 1876, William Kelly from



St. Paul's Church, Fowlerville.

1876 to 1878 and E. A. Sharrets again from that time until Oct. 1, 1886.

After this, the pastorates being vacant for some time, the Espy-Briar Creek Pastorate was organized. Since this organization it has been in charge of Rev's. Harmon, Kline, Reynolds, and O. E. Sunday.

The church was erected during the pastorate of Rev. D. E. Ruply at a cost of \$3,500. It was dedicated Jan. 12, 1896. Rev. Drs. J. H. Weber and J. R. Dimm preached on that day.

GRACE LUTHERAN, SCRANTON, PA.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Scranton, Pa., was organized in the Young Men's Christian Association building September 9, 1894, by the Rev. A. N. Warner, of Northumberland. During the summer months the city had been canvassed by the Rev. Foster U. Gift, a student of Susquehanna University, under the auspices of the Board of Home Missions. A Sunday School was organized July 29, 1894, and services were held in the Y. M. C. A. until June 14, 1896. At the organization service Rev. Warner



Grace Church, Scranton

confirmed the class instructed by Rev. Gift and baptized Bertha and Irene Cunningham. Thirty-two charter members constituted the congregation. The first council consisted of Elders James Matter and John Stackhouse and Deacons Charles Bender and W. E. Shoener. During the fall and spring the pulpit was supplied from Susquehanna University until Rev. Gift graduated when he was ordained by the Susquehanna Synod and became the first regular pastor June 1, 1895.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized September 26, 1894; a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor on July 23, 1895, and a Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society on September 30, 1897. Each of these societies rendered valuable as-

sistance to the Mission and much of the success attained is due to their efforts.

Durnig the early years the Missionary Societies of the Susquehanna Synod made special contributions to the Scranton work until the Mission became one of the special congregations cared for by the Woman's Home and Foreign Mission Society of the General Synod. The general society still liberally assists in the payment of the pastor's salary.

The growth of the Mission has not been rapid in spite of the strenuous efforts put forth by pastors and people to attain self-support. The industrial changes have caused so many removals and mission work demands so many sacrifices that the losses have been large. Of the 32 charter members ten retain their membership and eight of these are resident and active. During the years 412 have been received into membership of whom 200 remain on the rolls and 110 are active.

The first Bible was presented by Frank Sturges and Miss Emma E. Dengler. The Church Record was given by friends in St. Matthew's Church, Catawissa. The Communion tables were given by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Van Buskirk.

Through the efforts of Rev. Gift a lot and chapel at the corner of Madison Avenue and Mulberry Street were purchased May 23, 1896, for \$8,000. The Congregation raised \$1,000 and the Board of Church Extension loaned \$2,000 leaving \$5,000 in a mortgage. During the fall the chapel, under the direction of John Kaufman was renovated and enlarged and the dedication took place January 17, 1897. Rev. Foster U. Gift and Rev. H. H. Weber officiated.

Five pastors have served the congregation:

Foster U. Gift, June 1, 1895 to May 1, 1889.

Luther Hess Waring, June 1, 1889 to December 31, 1902.

W. M. B. Glanding, February 16, 1903 to August 31, 1903.

J. Luther Hoffman, December 1, 1903 to September 1, 1912.

A. Walter Baker, December 1, 1912 to ———

Each pastorate has been marked by earnest work, self-sacrificing devotion and permanent advancement.

The history of the first pastorate shows successful beginnings, gathering a congregation and providing it with a church home. Toward the close of his ministry Rev. Gift found that a new

church building was becoming necessary and the W. H. & F. M. society offered the congregation a loan of \$4,000. Before the work was commenced Rev. Luther Hess Waring succeeded to the pastorate and, with representatives of the Board of Home Missions, made a careful canvass of the city. After due consideration it was decided to change the location and build a new church home. Lots at the corner of Mulberry street and Prescott avenue were selected and a new church costing \$15,568 was erected. The W. H. & F. M. society very kindly gave \$4,000 of the amount. This church building is complete in all appointments and well adapted to the needs of the congregation for a long time of growth.

The pastorate of Rev. Glanding was brief but long enough to increase the church membership. The Rev. J. Luther Hoffman succeeded with the longest pastorate of all. The floating debt was cleared, the property improved and the membership greatly increased during his administration. The field is difficult, but Pastor Hoffman built well and left the congregation in good condition for his successor.

The Pastorate of Rev. A. Walter Baker has been marked by special effort to reduce the mortgage and to bring the mission to the point of self-support. A faithful membership has responded nobly to the appeals and the mortgage indebtedness is being reduced each year. The auditorium has been newly carpeted by the Ladies' Aid Society and the Luther League is raising a fund to purchase a pipe organ.

The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society deserves much credit for planning and maintaining Grace church in this important field. The present aggressiveness and efficiency will surely be rewarded with success and self-support in the not far distant future.

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY.

The location of Susquehanna University in the territory of the Susquehanna Synod and the very intimate relations that both school and Synod have borne to each other naturally call for a somewhat extended account of the university.



University Buildings

The founder of the university was Rev. Benjamin Kurtz, D. D., LL.D. He was one of the founders of the General Synod which was organized in St. John's at Hagerstown, Md., in 1820, Dr. Kurtz being the pastor. Next to Rev. S. S. Smucker, D. D., he was the most influential in the founding of the Seminary and College in Gettysburg in 1826 and 1832. As Editor of the Lutheran Observer from 1833 to 1861 and a leader in missionary, educational and reformatory work and organization, and as an



Steele Science Hall, Susquehanna University.

author, he was for nearly half a century one of the leading factors in American Lutheran history.

Dr. Kurtz became convinced that the great need of additional men for the ministry could be satisfactorily met by an institution that would give men a practical training, who, because of age or domestic ties, could not well take the longer and more theoretical courses which would be available and possible for others. He was confirmed in this view by what he observed of the operations of various mission institutes in Europe. He used the columns of the Observer for ten years to present and advocate his ideas.

In 1856 the Maryland Synod after a long and ardent discussion approved of his ideas as to a Missionary Institute and appointed the following ten persons to establish one: Revs. B.

Kurtz, D. D., Geo. Diehl, D. D., F. R. Anspach, D. D., John McCron, D. D., and J. G. Butler, D. D., and five laymen.

These men after a time accepted an offer to locate the school at Selinsgrove, Pa., and the Maryland Synod then felt released from the responsibility of leadership and general control and some of the directors named by them gave way to others who lived nearer to Selinsgrove.

The people of Selinsgrove and vicinity gave \$22,000 to secure the location of the Institute and that of the Susquehanna Female College, two-thirds of the amount being for the Institute. The charter was secured by Rev. S. Domer, then pastor of Trinity in Selinsgrove, and Col. J. Simpson, Esq., as representative of the Board of Trustees. The people of Selinsgrove had stipulated that along with the Missionary Institute there should be a classical school of high grade. The original charter, with certain amendments of later dates, secures to the institution all of the rights and privileges that are needed for the development of a school that will offer and maintain the wide variety and the high grade of courses that might be appropriately offered in a school intended to serve the Church and the general community and to bear the title of university.

The corner-stone of the first building, Selinsgrove Hall, was laid on September 1, 1858. Drs. B. Kurtz and Henry Ziegler were inaugurated on November 24, 1858. The addresses by distinguished men on these occasions were notable and were published in a volume and widely distributed.

From 1858 to 1894 the name of the school was Missionary Institute; since then it has been Susquehanna University. The superintendents of Missionary Institute were: B. Kurtz, D. D., LL. D., 1858-1865; Henry Ziegler, D. D., 1866-1881; Peter Born, D. D., 1881-1893, and F. P. Manhart, D. D., 1893-1894. The principals of the Classical Department of Missionary Institute were: Peter Born, D. D., 1859-1881; John B. Focht, D. D., 1881-1882, and J. R. Dimm, D. D., LL. D., 1882-1894.

The presidents of Susquehanna University have been: F. P. Manhart, D. D., 1894-1895; J. R. Dimm, D. D., LL. D., 1895-1899; C. W. Heisler, D. D., 1899-1901; J. I. Woodruff, Litt. D. (acting), 1901-1902; G. W. Enders, D. D., 1902-1904; J. B. Focht, D. D., 1904-1905; and C. T. Aikens, D. D., since 1905.

The main buildings were erected as follows: Selinsgrove Hall, 1858-1859; Gustavus Adolphus Hall, 1894-1895; Seybert Hall, 1901-1902; Alumni Gymnasium, 1903-1904; Steele Science Hall, 1912-1913. There are additional valuable buildings, such as the heating plant, the steam laundry, dwelling houses and a small dormitory.

Two buildings have been bought and occupied recently by student associations thus introducing a new factor in the development of the university. At this writing the indications are that additional buildings and endowments will be secured in the near future.

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